

Europe fears battle ahead with Thatcher

'Nightmare' of central control attacked again

● Mrs Thatcher continued her tour of Europe in Luxembourg by reiterating her criticism of EEC unity proposals
● Yesterday she spoke of "the nightmare" of central control and pressed her view of free enterprise policies
● As criticism of her Bruges speech grew across Europe, British officials acted to limit the damage
● She also threatened to block European plans which would cripple the future of British commercial TV

From Nicholas Wood in Luxembourg, and Our Foreign Staff

Mrs Thatcher reinforced her criticism of the "Utopian goal" of a united Europe in a speech in Luxembourg yesterday as storm clouds of rejection gathered over the Continent. Undaunted by the criticism of her Bruges address the previous day, she spoke of a centralized nightmare and pressed on with her rival concept of "willing and active co-operation between independent sovereign states" pursuing free enterprise policies with a minimum of regulation. Senior aides travelling with the Prime Minister in Luxembourg said she wanted to provoke a wide-ranging and fundamental debate about the future of Europe. "We have reached the stage where we don't give a damn what people say so long as they eventually come round," said a member of her entourage.

European leaders and European Economic Community officials reacted with dismay and pointed to a "major battle ahead" over the ultimate nature of the entity. Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister and current chairman of the Council of Ministers, sought an explanation during a BBC radio interview. "It is difficult for me to believe that Mrs Thatcher would be prepared to put in question, unilaterally, the European Single Act, which binds the 12 by validated international treaty," he said in an interview in a London hospital, where he is being treated for a heart condition.

He considered it "extremely important at this stage that Mrs Thatcher inform, formally, the Community of the exact meaning of her vision of Europe". "There is a lot of Genghis Khan in this speech," was the typical comment of a Member of the European Parliament, while the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, likened Mrs Thatcher to General de Gaulle.

De Gaulle was quite a formidable personality. It's certainly not an insult," Mrs Thatcher responded. Her remarks were made at a lunch in her honour hosted by Mr Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg President of the Government (equivalent to Prime Minister), who paid tribute to her tenacity, frankness and loyalty.

Other diplomats and officials took comfort in the fact that Mrs Thatcher had expressed similar views before, but that on this occasion the Prime Minister had declared that Britain's destiny lay in Europe. However the response was overwhelmingly negative and in a damage limitation exercise, British embassies in the EEC had the Bruges speech translated and sent to "key personalities" in business, the media and politics, urging Europeans to read the whole text.

Mrs Thatcher's comments seemed certain to set the stage for confrontation at the next EEC summit meeting in Rhodes in December. West German officials said Mrs Thatcher had "simply not understood" the 1992 process. "Deliberately or otherwise" she was confusing long-term goals, such as a single European currency, with the more immediate aim of the abolition of frontiers to create the single market.

"Of course we must have controls on crime and terrorism," one senior official in Bonn said. "But the EEC is doing this by strengthening external frontiers, not internal ones. Most terrorists and criminals do not use normal border crossing points anyway. Most arrests take place because of police surveillance inside the EEC, and this sort of co-operation is what we need to intensify for 1992."

German officials welcomed Mrs Thatcher's praise for the recent arrest of two IRA terrorists on the Dutch-German border by "a brave German Customs official". But they said the arrest had been a lucky accident, and could not be used to justify continued border controls.

Greece said the EEC must not abolish controls over drugs or crime. But Mr Yannis Karamanlis, a senior Foreign Ministry official in charge of EEC affairs, said Athens fully supported closer

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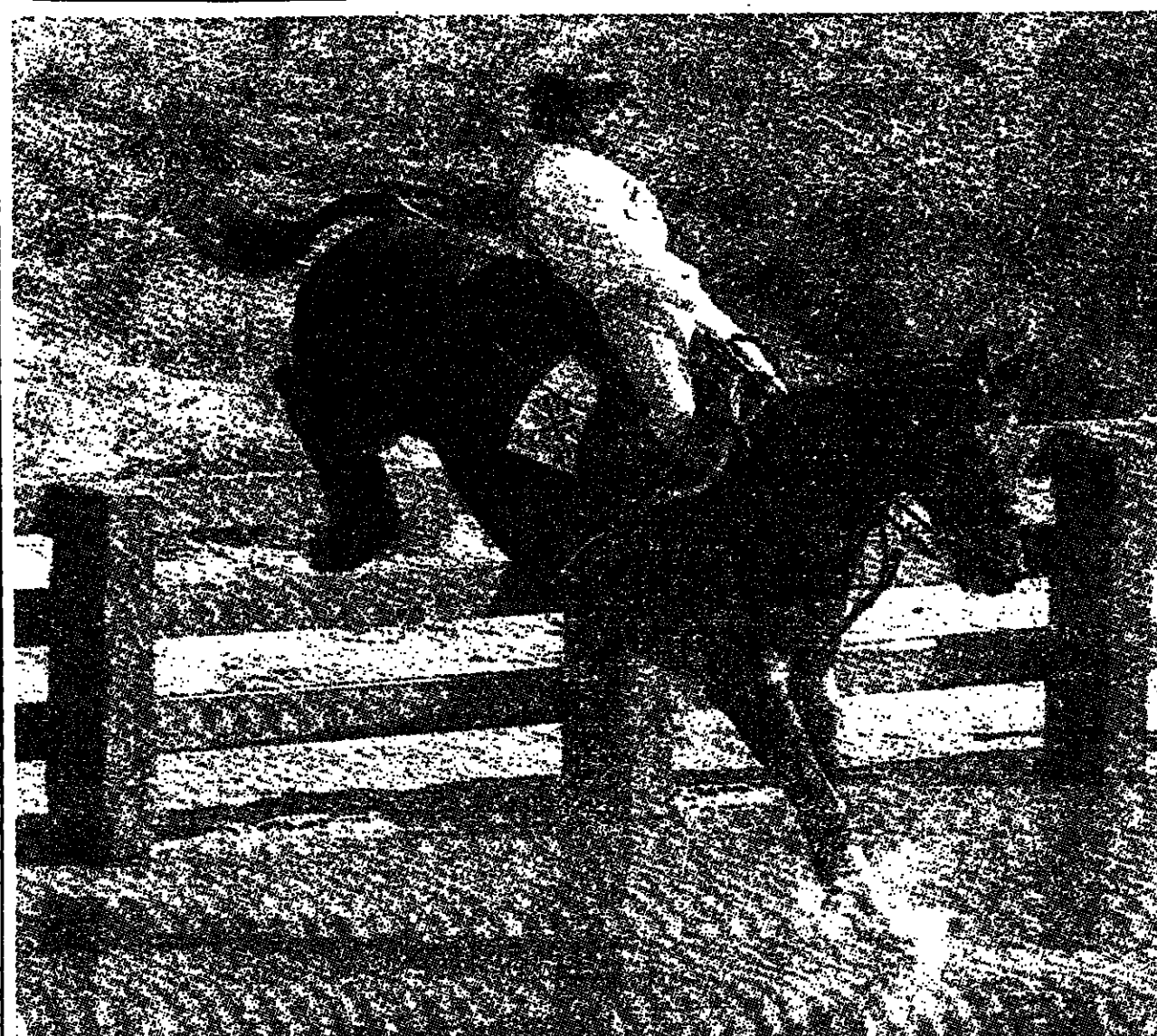
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Holding on to Britain's Olympic medal hopes



Virginia Leng of Britain riding Master Craftsman during the cross-country section of the Three-Day Event in Seoul. Mrs Leng is second in the individual event, with the British team third overall. Captain Mark Phillips announced his retirement from the sport after having to withdraw from the competition. Report, pages 47 and 48 (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

British touts profit in Seoul

From John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent
Seoul

British ticket touts operating in the Olympic Park have so far escaped prosecution under a Korean law which prohibits the resale of tickets for profit. One group of four men who concentrate on big international sporting events hope to make a profit of £10,000 during the Games.

The group arrived in Seoul without tickets, but succeeded in buying and reselling them for the most attractive competitions.

Mr Martin Keane, aged 30, from Manchester, said yesterday: "There are about 20 people reselling tickets here, of whom at least nine are British. Four of us work as a group."

Mr Keane said the first task was to find couriers for travel companies through whom spare tickets could be obtained. He was able to resell tickets costing £30 for the opening ceremony for £350.

Mr Gary Collins, aged 32, from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, is concentrating on gymnastics and swimming, and has resold £25 seats for the gymnastics finals for £150.

Olympic report, pages 46 to 48

Gorbachov declares an emergency in Armenia

By Mary Dejevsky

The Soviet authorities have declared a state of emergency in the disputed Transcaucasian region of Nagorno-Karabakh, after what Tass said was a sharp deterioration in the situation there.

The announcement was made by the Kremlin's special envoy, Mr Arkady Volsky, and broadcast on regional radio and television. A few minutes before, Tass had reported the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, as warning that "extraordinary measures" might have to be taken to avoid bloodshed.

The state of emergency includes a strict dusk-to-dawn curfew in the capital, Stepanakert and in the city of Agdam. It may, although this is not confirmed, amount to the imposition of martial law, in which case the troops who have patrolled the streets of the region's towns sporadically since the outbreak of the disturbances in February will be back more permanently. There may also be an enforced return to work.

In his announcement, Mr Volsky suggested that law and order was in danger of breaking down. He noted that there had been an attack on the Prosecutor's Office in Step-

anekert and "humiliating attacks" on police and Interior Ministry troops.

The population of the city resumed their long-running general strike on Sunday following an incident in which one person was killed. Although the incident has been reported only in general terms by the Soviet media, it appears that a bus carrying mainly Armenians was ambushed by a group of Azerbaijanis near the town of Khadzaly and that a gunfight ensued.

According to Tass, apart from the man killed 25 people were hurt, but Armenian nationalist sources say that up to 70 people were injured.



Mr Shevardnadze: Move to avoid bloodshed.

Nagorno-Karabakh is the subject of a long-standing dispute between the neighbouring Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan which flared up again last February in a series of violent incidents. The region is administratively part of Azerbaijan, although the majority of its population is Armenian. The authorities admit that more than 30 people have been killed in inter-ethnic clashes since February, most of them Armenians murdered in a day of violence in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan. Since then, there has been an exodus of Armenians to Armenia and Azerbaijanis to Azerbaijan, creating resettlement problems for both republics.

In June, the Nagorno-Karabakh government petitioned the Supreme Soviet in Moscow for the region to be transferred to Armenia, with the full support of the Armenian leadership. Mass street demonstrations in support of the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh continue to be held in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

Both Moscow and the Azerbaijani leadership have rejected demands for a change in the region's status.

Inquest witnesses dispute SAS story

From Tony Daw, Gibraltar

The evidence of the SAS soldiers who shot three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar was challenged at the inquest yesterday by two witnesses. A Gibraltar housewife and an English barrister gave accounts of the shooting which differed in significant details from those of soldiers A to D, who carried out the killings.

Mrs Josie Celecia heard the shots fired at two of the terrorists, Mairead Farrell and Daniel McCann, while looking out of the window of her first floor flat. She said she saw two bodies on the pavement. She then heard three more bangs and saw a man holding out both hands towards the bodies but she did not notice a pistol. Soldiers A and B have denied firing at the terrorists while they were on the ground.

Mr Stephen Bullock said he saw McCann reeling backwards from the first shot and then turned his attention to two other armed men, presumed to be soldiers C and D, who were standing together at

a road junction ahead of him. He said that after watching the shootings they ran off and he heard a further long burst of firing. Soldiers C and D said they killed the third terrorist Sean Savage after hearing the first shots behind them and out of their sight.

Both witnesses, who appeared in the controversial

SAS challenged.....5

Death on the Rock television film stuck to their stories under hostile cross examination from Mr Michael Hucker, representing the SAS soldiers. He said he would be calling evidence to show they had discussed their stories outside the court yesterday before appearing in the witness box.

The inquest was also told by Det Chief Inspector Joe Unger, head of the Gibraltar Special Branch, that the authorities had planned to let the terrorists enter Gibraltar to be arrested later by the SAS.

INSIDE

● The poet as editor: the fourth part of *The Times's* exclusive serialization of the letters of T.S. Eliot focuses on his struggle to establish a literary magazine. Page 10

WIN £226,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Six people shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3), so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £226,000. Prices: page 31

IN PART 2

Tour goes on

Australia's unhappy cricketers, while deciding to continue their tour of Pakistan, have called for an inquiry by the International Cricket Conference into touring teams' problems there. Page 48

The new boss

The general manager with a specialization will be the ideal executive of the 1990s, according to an introduction to today's eight pages of appointments. Pages 32-39

Degree courses

A full list of degree course vacancies in physical sciences and biological sciences is published today. Page 41

TIMES FOCUS

Brunel Science Park, which opened two years ago and operates in close association with Brunel University in Middlesex, is already profitable. A Special Report describes its work. Pages 20-21

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Britain will block Euro-plans for TV

By Richard Evans and Nicholas Wood

The Prime Minister yesterday widened her dispute with the rest of the Europe by insisting she will block plans which threaten to cripple the advertising future of Britain's commercial TV companies and threaten programming.

Mrs Thatcher went out of her way during a visit to the Astra satellite television headquarters in Luxembourg to emphasise that the Government will not sign draft pan-European broadcasting agreements being drawn up by the Council of Europe and the EEC.

Both Euro-bodies are preparing rules and regulations to deal with the new era of satellite television when TV stations will be able to beam programmes across national frontiers into several countries.

While Mrs Thatcher has welcomed a European move to stop unacceptable scenes of

sex and violence being beamed into people's living rooms from another country, she is furious at European proposals to interfere with advertising and programming.

Following intensive lobbying led by the Germans, the EEC and the Council of Europe are threatening to forbid advertising breaks during many programmes and to severely restrict them during others. Instead commercials would be confined to lengthy "blocks" in between programmes, which would devastate the finances of ITV companies. The EEC is also suggesting 60 per cent of programmes - excluding news, sport and game shows - should be made in the EEC. The issue is set to come to a head at a Council of Europe meeting in Stockholm in November and at the next

Continued on page 24, col 4

Whitehall savings fall short

By Philip Webster

Whitehall departments were sharply criticized by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday for their poor response to a government savings drive.

The Public Accounts Committee expressed deep concern at the failure of departments to meet a demand from ministers for savings of 5 per cent in their purchasing of goods and equipment when optimistic assessments suggested that savings of up to 20 per cent would eventually be possible.

The target was set by the Government's so-called "purchasing initiative" four years ago. Report, page 4

Biggest-ever bid for British firm

By Our City Staff

The biggest contested bid ever launched for a British company was made yesterday when Minorco offered £2.9 billion for Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining house.

ConsGold shares jumped more than £3, and in late trading reached £14. Minorco has asked for a Stock Exchange inquiry into ConsGold share price movements.

Minorco, based in Luxembourg, is the overseas arm of the South African Anglo American empire. Its offer of £13.06 per share was rejected as "ludicrous" by Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold's chairman.

The Minorco bid is spear-

headed by Sir Michael Edwards, the former head of British Leyland, who joined Minorco's board in 1984 and was yesterday made deputy chairman and chief executive. Minorco already holds a 28.94 per cent stake in ConsGold.

If successful, Minorco will sell off ConsGold's South African investments and review ConsGold's 49.3 per cent holding in Newmont Mining Corporation, the North American gold mining company. Minorco currently has no South African assets.

MI5 'knew Blunt was a communist in 1930s'

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent



Blunt: Americans asked for an interview.

Anthony Blunt was known to be a communist before he left Cambridge University in the 1930s and yet was still allowed to join MI5, according to secret British intelligence files uncovered in Washington.

The archive documents include reports of MI5 and Special Branch surveillance activities mounted on communist suspects at Cambridge University in the 1930s and 1940s, when many top Soviet spies, including Blunt and Guy Burgess, were recruited. One of the dons, Maurice Dobb, who encouraged his students to join the Communist Party, had his letters opened and telephone tapped.

The secret files were discovered by Mr John Costello, a British-born historian,

while researching for a book. They also reveal that two weeks after the defection to Moscow of Burgess and Donald Maclean in 1951, the Federal Bureau of Investigation pleaded with the British authorities for permission to interview Blunt. The request was turned down.

The FBI file on Blunt shows the Americans had evidence that he was deeply implicated with Burgess and Maclean. Yet Blunt was not confronted by MI5 until 1964, and he was not exposed in public until 1979, when Mrs Thatcher made a statement in the House.

Mr Costello's book, *The Mask of Treachery*, based on more than 4,000 MI5 files buried in American archives, is to be published in the United States on October 25. It is due to be published in Britain by William Collins soon after, although the contents have already

caused some alarm in Whitehall. This week, an official letter was sent to Collins asking for three names to be deleted from the version published in Britain. Collins has also been reminded that the House of Lords' judgement on *Spycatcher* - the book by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer - has still not been delivered. It is due next month.

An official at 10 Downing Street said yesterday: "No one in the Cabinet Office has seen the book. If it includes things that we have already gone to court over, we will have to consider what action may be taken."

Mr Bruce Lee, senior editor for the American publishers, Morrow, said the book would challenge many of the statements made over the years about the Soviet spy ring in Britain. Continued on page 24, col 7

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Tributes pour in for Roy Kinnear

Tributes poured in last night for Roy Kinnear, the actor, who died on Tuesday night after a riding accident while filming in Spain. Michael York, who was co-starring in *The Return of the Musketeers* with Roy Kinnear, said: "Roy was the most modest of men and an extraordinary man — the kindest and most gallant and the most good-natured person I think I have ever met."

"He is irreplaceable, but somehow we are going to find the means to continue the film as a contribution to his extraordinary talent and so that a life that brought joy and enchantment to all those who met him can continue to do so through the undying medium of film."

Mr Kinnear, aged 54, fell as he rode across a bridge in Toledo on Monday. He dislocated his pelvis and there appeared to be no complications. He is believed to have suffered traumatic shock and died from heart failure. Colleagues pledged to complete the film in his honour.

Obituary, page 16

Son's plea for Biggs

The 14-year-old Brazilian son of the Great Train Robber, Ronald Biggs, arrived in London yesterday to plead his father's case for a royal pardon. Michael Biggs was travelling with his mother to petition the Queen and to promote a new film, *Prisoner of Rio*, about his father's life on the run. However, Mr Robert Adley, MP for Southdown, and joint chairman of the parliamentary railways committee, called for Biggs to be extradited from Brazil. He said: "Any suggestion that Biggs is anything other than a convicted violent criminal should be rejected."

35-hour week sought

The Engineering Employers' Federation is likely tomorrow to give a cool reception to demands by 14 unions representing 800,000 workers for a 35-hour working week. The federation will make it clear the claim will not be conceded unless the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions can deliver substantial cost savings. The unions say that in European countries where the 35-hour week already operates productivity has increased. They also say that employment in the industry could be increased by 200,000 if the claim is accepted.

Officer suspended

A police force has suspended a third officer after allegations of violence. The officer, based in Wrexham, Clwyd, was suspended pending an internal inquiry after a man was allegedly assaulted after his arrest in the town for being drunk and disorderly. Mr Eric Evans, the North Wales deputy chief constable, confirmed the suspension but would not comment further. The move comes after last month's suspension of two officers when a television cameraman filmed them allegedly beating up two men after a car chase in Anglesey.

Queen to visit Spain

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to make a state visit to Spain from October 17 to 21, at the invitation of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. It will be the Queen's first visit to Spain. Afterwards she and the Duke are to spend a private weekend in Majorca with their hosts. The Queen will use the royal yacht Britannia for part of the visit.

Call for the police to get motorway special squad

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ministers should consider the creation of a national motorway police squad to tackle dangerous driving, Chief Superintendent Geoffrey Meadows, head of operations in the Lancashire force, said in Blackpool yesterday.

The squad would provide greater consistency, more patrols, more resources and better law enforcement. Officers should be seconded to it.

The Lancashire force has had to handle three of the worst motorway accidents in the last two years, which resulted in 34 deaths.

Lancashire officers have prepared a report for Mr Peter Bottomley, the Minister for Roads and Traffic, recommending there should be training to drive on motorways for the test, perhaps using simulators, as aircraft pilots do.

Chief Superintendent Meadows found "quite horrifying" the discovery that during five days on one of the busiest sections of the M6, 30 per cent of all vehicles driving North were leaving less than a two-second gap — 50,000 vehicles were driving too close to each other.

He is calling for new technology already in use in some European countries to detect people driving too close together. Road markings and a camera on bridges enable measurements to be taken.

Mr Meadows was speaking at a press briefing during the annual meeting of the Police Superintendents' Association. Before members went into a closed session on the Hungerford massacre, Chief Superintendent Ken Smith, secretary of the association, urged the formation of a national network of gun-carrying vehicles, giving 24-hour cover in case of major shootings.

Three forces already have them, but in the wake of the massacre the three national staff organizations at a meeting on Monday will consider a call for other areas to have them too. When the association's chiefs meet representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Federation on Monday they will have in mind that armed response units are already deployed by Nottinghamshire, West Yorkshire and Hampshire police.

Nottinghamshire has three armed response vehicles. Each contains a sealed armory with handguns, a shotgun with a rifled barrel, a rifle and CS gas cartridges for use with the shotgun. Protective equipment is carried for the two officers manning the vehicle.

Any police officer using a call sign can deploy the team to a location. But when firearms have not been used against police or members of the public, weapons can be taken from the armory only on the authority of an assistant chief constable or above.

If a firearm has been used against the police or the public, authority can come from a superintendent. One of the vehicles is deployed on the M1, another on the A1 and a third in the City Centre.

Mr Smith said that their presence would safeguard unarmed officers from being deployed when the police had precise information that suspects were armed or a firearm had been used.

"As an association we don't wish to see police officers routinely armed, but we would like to see ACPO taking a lead from the three forces that have available armed response teams", he said.

Mr Smith said the armed response vehicles were also used as normal police patrol cars, although they had a sealed armory and the crews were authorized firearms officers only when an incident occurred whilst the team deployed in its firearms response role.

One chase already by a Nottinghamshire armed response vehicle took it through five other force areas. None of the five forces was able to deploy an armed team.

Low morale, page 5

Clarke reassures nurses on pay award



Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, meeting cardiac technicians at the opening of an extension to the heart unit at the Bristol Royal Infirmary yesterday. Sue Simpson (left), Nicola Osborne and Caroline Bird were told that the Government will fully fund this year's nurses' pay award. Mr Clarke said the rises would be implemented by Christmas.

Wider competition in credit cards

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Retailers and consumers are likely to benefit from the increased competition which is likely to come after the decision by Lloyds, Barclays and Bank of Scotland to apply for independent membership of MasterCard, the smaller of the two international credit card systems. It has 12 million card holders in the United Kingdom and operates under the Access name.

Midland and National Westminster are also considering independent applications to MasterCard. Within the past week, Lloyds, Barclays and Bank of Scotland have announced that they have taken advantage of

MasterCard International's decision to open up its United Kingdom membership to financial institutions outside the Access scheme.

The present sole members of Access are National Westminster, Lloyds, Midland and Royal Bank of Scotland, who run the scheme through the Joint Credit Company, sharing overheads and a rulebook. Access has 300,000 outlets in the United Kingdom and six million worldwide.

Barclays Bank has been a member of Visa, the world's biggest credit card operation, since 1966. Visa has now expanded its membership to 27 financial institutions,

including four building societies, and has about the same number of retail outlets as Access.

The applications, which are likely to be successful, will be heard on October 10. None of the banks is willing to give away its plans but it seems certain that new types of plastic cards will be offered to customers. These will be specifically targeted at particular groups.

But Lloyds said yesterday it would continue to use Access as its main bank credit card, and Barclays confirmed that it would maintain Visa for Barclaycard.

The banks could also follow the example of their American counterparts, which routinely supply MasterCard and Visa, and offer affinity cards. These enable organizations such as companies with a large number of employees, trade unions and even charities to issue plastic cards in their own name.

Retailers may also be able to negotiate lower commission rates from the card-issuing banks if they become more competitive with each other. At present, merchant charges are just under 2 per cent of the purchase price but this figure could fall if banks negotiated individually with retailers.

Government opposes EEC labour regulations

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Government last night made it clear it would resist any move by the European Commission to impose compulsory trade union representatives on the boards of all companies.

Mr John Cope, Minister of State for Employment, speaking after returning from a meeting of European employment ministers in Athens, said

Britain would also oppose a Euro-employment contract for workers.

His speech came 24 hours after Mrs Thatcher had dismissed as folly the idea of a political and economic union of European nations.

Mr Cope said British ears had been "frightened" by such talk "all of which would sit very uneasily with British practice and indeed the practice of some of the other countries in the Community".

His speech, delivered to the Mid Kent Small Business Club, was obviously aimed at a wider audience and in particular M Jacques Delors, the EEC president, who has been emphasizing the importance of the "social dimension" of 1992 when the market is deregulated.

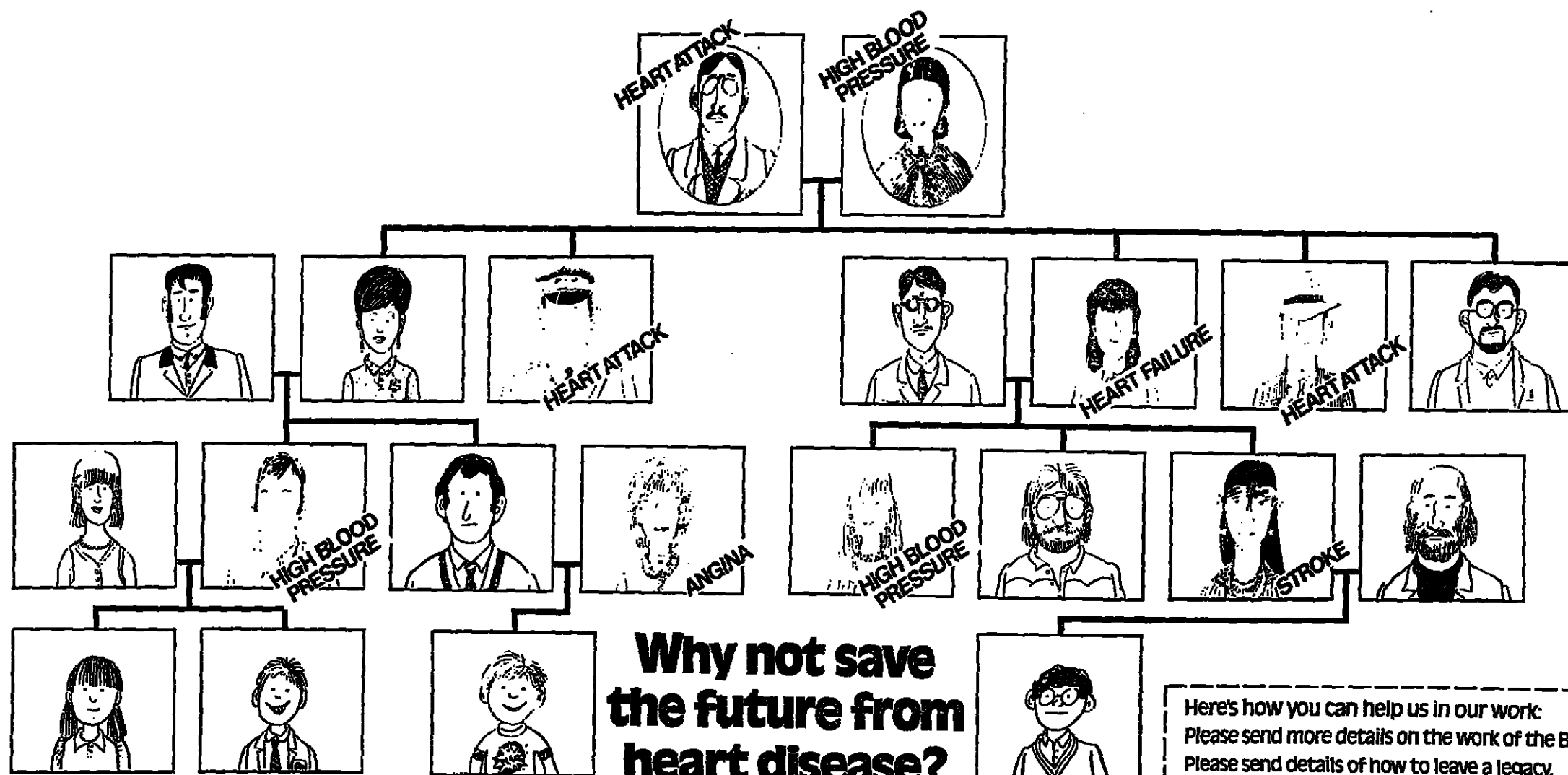
He maintained there was a growing realization that social development must not conflict with the internal market.

"We must improve our competitiveness to create jobs, not stifle it with new areas of regulations".

His message to the ministers was they should concentrate on making Europe's labour markets more flexible, not more regulated.

"Two or three years ago that would have been a hostile message to many of them. Now I've found a lot of support for what I've said."

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Three-year jail term for driver in death crash 'not enough'

The fiancée of a man who was killed in a 100 mph car crash criticized a three-year jail sentence and a 10-year driving ban handed out to the driver of the car yesterday.

Miss Barbara McEvoy, who was six months pregnant at the time of the accident, said outside the court: "He should have got 10 years in prison instead of 10 years' disqualification. I am terrified he will do it again. Anyone who is disqualified should never be allowed on the road again."

She said: "It just isn't enough. It is disgusting. It will just be a holiday for him, yet he has destroyed my life and that of my little girl."

The Central Criminal Court was told that Anthony Williams, aged 29, had been banned twice previously for drunken driving and was driving while disqualified at the time of the accident.

Mr Michael Hill, the recorder, said the accident was "one of the worst cases of death by reckless driving this court is ever likely to hear."

Williams admitted causing the death by reckless driving of David Hunt, aged 22, on a notorious stretch of dual carriageway at Sidcup, Kent, in April last year.

The court was told that the four-week-old, high-powered BMW car burst into flames seconds after crashing. Mr Hunt was burnt beyond recognition.

Mr David Bate, for the prosecution, said Williams, of Jevington Way, Lee, south London, had been drinking

but was not over the legal limit at the time of the crash. However, he had driven at speeds of between 85 mph and 100 mph, weaving through traffic and "cutting up" other cars.

Mr Bate said Williams was driving so fast that smoke was coming from the car's exhaust

whisky, which he drank from a bottle.

Mr Martin Heslop, for the defence, said Williams expressed "deep regret and shame for his appalling conduct that day."

The judge told Williams he had no business to have been driving in the first place but had done so in a dreadful and cruel way, "which resulted in a horrific death. The calamity may affect you for the rest of your life."

The court was told that the former newspaper printer, who was now unemployed, had been disqualified for 12 months in August 1985 for driving with excess alcohol.

He committed a second offence the day before his first appearance in court and was banned for three years.

Williams was jailed for a further two years after being convicted of fraud by a jury in a separate case.

Miss McEvoy, aged 24, said afterwards that she would sue for compensation. "It is for my little girl. How do you explain to her why she has not got a father? That man will be out of jail before she even goes to school. What price is put on a human life?"

She said: "My fiancé and I were getting married and were in the process of getting a home. The five years we had together all went in seconds. At least our little girl will have a name, Charlotte Hunt-McEvoy. Dave loved life. Only that week he had chosen the name for our baby."

Mrs Rumbold said: "My view is that the exam boards all need to pull their socks up. They are far too complacent."

She said that the Government was very concerned at the delay in getting the results to the schools which should have received them all more than a month ago.

Mrs Rumbold, who was addressing the Headmasters' Conference in Swansea, said: "We are very concerned that

although GCSE is better than what went before, it is still far from perfect.

"There have been administrative teething troubles. There are also some concerns about aspects of its organization - particularly the demands of course work assessment and the burden it can impose if it is not well managed."

Mr John Everson, Chief Inspector of Secondary Education, told the Birmingham conference that the GCSE "has been the chief agent for change in the secondary schools."

An inspectorate report will be published next month based on 1,300 visits to schools over the past two years.

It will show that four out of five GCSE lessons observed have been satisfactory or better, compared with 66 per cent of the old O Level classes.

Mr John Everson, secretary of the Midlands examining group, apologized to children who were still waiting for their results.

"The main difficulty has been course work going astray but we are putting this right," he said.

Mrs Rumbold told the conference that the GCSE had been a success, but added: "We must not become complacent. We are all aware that

things do not remain like this and have asked the board to sort it out very quickly. We are very concerned at the delays. It is not good enough."

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The Olympian who won't be late next time



Gymnast Lisa Grayson was training for the Olympics last night, but she is early, not late. Her mind, understandably, was half a world away in Seoul, among the cheering crowds and tense atmosphere she so nearly shared as a late replacement in the British team. Lisa, aged 15, missed out after a frantic, vain bid to catch a flight. Now, with coach Jack Grey, she trains for Barcelona 1992, pursuing her dream in a small, bleak gym in Redcar, Cleveland.

Minister condemns GCSE delays

By David Tytler
Education Editor

A dispute broke out last night between the Government and the GCSE examining board after Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, accused it of complacency, with thousands of the 700,000 schoolchildren who took the examination for the first time this year still waiting for their results.

Mrs Rumbold said: "My view is that the exam boards all need to pull their socks up. They are far too complacent."

She said that the Government was very concerned at the delay in getting the results to the schools which should have received them all more than a month ago.

Mrs Rumbold, who was addressing the Headmasters' Conference in Swansea, said: "We are very concerned that

although GCSE is better than what went before, it is still far from perfect.

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On Saturday in colour

Was all the fuss and bother of the Sixties worth anything? Do *Play Power* and *The Female Eunuch* have any relevance to the yuppie generation? Richard Neville, Paul McCartney and Christopher Logue are among those musing on the fate of the counter-culture.

The Travel pages open the skiing season with a look at the brochures and investigate the dangers of going off-piste.

A 24-page Property section looks at homes next to golf courses and marinas.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Mr Geoffrey Hornby, of Torquay, Devon, arrived home from hospital to discover he was one of six winners of yesterday's Portfolio prize of £4,000.

The other winners were: Mr Rod MacKenzie, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire; Mr William Axtell, of Wimblesham, Norfolk; Mr William Turnbull, of Lindford, Hampshire; Mr John Ley, of Hove, East Sussex, and Mr James Martin, of Hawick, Scotland.

Shortage of court clerks

Magistrate protests to Government

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A magistrate has lodged a protest with the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary, saying the acute national shortage of court clerks was threatening to bring about a collapse of the magistrates' court service.

Mrs Kathleen Bowman, who sits on the bench in Fareham, Hampshire, says the shortage is so serious that "we are likely soon to have a situation where solicitors challenging a crown prosecutor will not have courts to operate in". The Fareham

bench, she says, is operating with clerks at half strength, and vacancies have been advertised without success at a time when the Home Office was urging courts to speed work and cut delays and adjournments.

Her letter comes as the drainage of clerks to the Crown Prosecution Service or private practice is causing many court sittings to be cancelled.

It coincides with mounting frustration in the Justices' Clerks' Society, which repre-

sents the chief legal advisers to JPs, and the Association of Magisterial Officers, which represents more junior court clerks. Both have lodged substantial pay claims.

Mr Brian Forster, secretary of the society, said his members estimated there were now about 100 clerk vacancies throughout the country.

The society has lodged a pay claim which would give justices' clerks - who run magistrates' courts - parity with branch crown prosecutors. It would mean that a justices'

clerk in a division of 160,000 people would go from £26,000 to £34,000 and one in a division of 300,000 from about £31,000 to £39,000.

Pay talks between the Association of Magisterial Officers and the joint negotiating committee of local councilors and magistrates have broken down. The collapse comes after the committee offered a total pay award of 5.4 per cent. The dispute will now go to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The hearing at Milton Keynes was told the gun used by Private Jones was faulty, although this had not contributed to the shooting. Corporal Neil Harvey, a force armorer, said there were four things wrong with the SA 80 rifle, which had been damaged.

At one stage during the hearing, the coroner ordered the press and public to leave while he studied a "restricted document" raised in the case.

Mr Corner said: "In my view, it does affect a matter of national security and if the document is referred to, I will have to clear the court."

In his summing up, Mr Corner said that as a result of the shooting and an incident in Brunel, he believed the Army should look into whether Susat gun sights should be used when soldiers were operating at close range.

He said: "A terrible mistake has been made by Private Jones, who has not assessed the situation correctly. He loosed off a bullet when he should not have done. Having heard the evidence I am in no doubt that Private Circuit was directly in front of Private Jones and I am also satisfied that Private Jones did not deliberately shoot at Private Circuit." He recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

Private Jones was found guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility. He was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended for two years.

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Judge shows leniency to woman blackmailer

A Central Criminal Court judge yesterday showed sympathy for a mother-of-three whose sexual activities with a businessman were secretly filmed and used to blackmail him.

Seliz Hassan, aged 31, wept as Mr Crespi, the Recorder, sentenced her to 18 months' imprisonment for blackmail, but suspended the sentence for two years.

He said he believed that she had been under the dominance of her Egyptian husband, Hassen Hassan, aged 41, a chauffeur now serving six years for his part in the blackmail.

The judge told the wife: "Go back to your children, keep out of trouble and this will be the end of this unhappy story."

as far as you are concerned. "I proceed on the basis that you were under the dominance of your husband at the time. You have got children and I am most reluctant to send you to prison."

Last month a jury convicted both husband and wife, of Lisson Green estate, Paddington, west London, of blackmailing the businessman - who cannot be identified - by threatening to show the film, video taped in the bedroom of a north London flat, to members of his family. The husband was jailed and sentenced on Mrs Hassan was postponed for a social inquiry report.

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Army death shot 'accident'

An Army private accidentally shot dead a fellow private during exercises in Belize, an inquest was told yesterday.

Private Graham Circuit, aged 19, was shot in the neck at close range by Private Mark Jones, aged 18, during training by 2 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Mr Rodney Corner, North Buckinghamshire coroner, was told the exercise on a firing range at a makeshift jungle camp involved the platoon in hunting two "enemies" who escaped during an ambush.

Lance-Corporal Paul Ellis, a safety inspector at the camp, said he was standing behind Private Jones when the shooting happened. "Private Jones got into a kneeling position and raised his weapon into his shoulder. I shouted 'stop' as I could see what was about to

happen. He would have been endangering life if he had fired his weapon.

"I heard Jones's weapon going off seconds later. I saw Private Circuit slump. His arms gave way and his legs slumped to the floor. Jones dropped his weapon, took the webbing off and went into a state of shock."

The hearing at Milton Keynes was told the gun used by Private Jones was faulty, although this had not contributed to the shooting. Corporal Neil Harvey, a force armorer, said there were four things wrong with the SA 80 rifle, which had been damaged.

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Women jockeys upset by Francome remarks

John Francome, the former champion jockey, has ridden into a confrontation with the Princess Royal by declaring that women do not have the strength to compete with men.

Mr Francome, now a promising trainer based at Lambourn, Berkshire, said in *Riva* magazine: "They haven't the strength for the jumping game."

He said that if he had a daughter, he would not allow her to ride professionally.

His comments will not find favour with the Princess Royal and other female jockeys who have made a mark on the sport in the past few years.

Lorna Vincent, aged 28, the first woman to achieve prominence in National Hunt racing - and who beat John Francome at Newbury once -

said: "I don't know how he can say that. There are about 150 of us now holding professional licences."

A spokesman for Gee Armytage, the woman jockey who led the Grand National this year, said: "I'm sure she would disagree strongly with what John says."

An unrepentant Mr Francome said yesterday: "I don't know what all the fuss is about. I haven't said women shouldn't ride. I just don't think girls are strong enough to jump professionally."

"If women jockeys don't like it, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it."

"It's natural when a man falls off a horse for him to curl up into a ball. Women don't do that naturally and they get hurt."

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MPs are critical of Whitehall effort to meet savings target

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Whitehall departments including the Treasury were strongly criticized by MPs yesterday for failing to make adequate savings in the purchase of goods and equipment.

Faced with a demand from ministers to make value-for-money savings of 5 per cent in their procurement spending, departments collectively set targets which were £194 million below that figure for 1987 and failed by £135 million to reach it.

The all-party Public Accounts Committee voiced concern at the failure to meet the savings target, fixed by the Government's so-called "purchasing initiative" and designed to introduce a more professional approach within Whitehall to the buying of non-military goods and services.

It criticized the Treasury and the Central Unit on Purchasing, set up to oversee the savings drive and to report to the Prime Minister, for failing to play a stronger co-ordinating role. It said that departments needed a "stronger lead from the centre".

It singled out for particular criticism the Government's two largest purchasing departments, the Property Services Agency and the Department of Transport, which account for 54 per cent of procurement expenditure but which

achieved savings of only 1.2 per cent and 1.9 per cent respectively. Criticizing the "poor professionalism" of the purchasing and supply arrangements within departments, the committee attacked the inadequate attention of senior management to the "basic functional activities" of their departments, called for proper professional training for purchasing staff, and told the Treasury to report to ministers if departments failed to set realistic targets or failed to achieve them by big margins.

When the initiative was launched in 1984 the management and personnel office (MPO) of the Treasury said that more professional practices could eventually bring savings of between 5 and 20 per cent in departments' expenditure on procurement.

At that time, ministers opted for a target of £400 million a year, equivalent to 5 per cent of annual spending. The committee said yesterday that while the 20 per cent target might be optimistic, the Central Unit on Purchasing should establish a "demanding though realistic" target for savings beyond April 1989.

The MPO in 1984 had concluded that government purchasing organizations compared badly with those in the private sector, who were

more active, better informed and better motivated. Noting that the Treasury had been unable to say when fully professional supply arrangements would be in place in all Whitehall departments, the committee recommended that it agree firm timetables with each department.

Only 40 of the 8,000 purchasing and supply staff employed by government departments are members of the Institute of Procurement and Supply.

The committee said: "The achievement of a more professional purchasing and supply organization is dependent upon purchasing and supply staff acquiring professional expertise. We emphasize the importance of proper training for purchasing and supply staff, and the need to issue formal written guidance so that improved practices are quickly established."

The Treasury were unwilling to put a figure on the additional cost of procurement and supply to the taxpayer from the failure of departments in the 1970s to adopt the best private sector practices. "On the basis of the current 5 per cent savings target it is likely in our view to have been considerable."

Committee of Public Accounts: The Government's Purchasing Initiative (Stationery Office, £5.70).

Inventors for real life



Paul Dagley-Morris and Beverly Waugh with the awards they received yesterday in the Young Engineers for Britain competition. Amidst all this imaginative creativity on display from the young inventors, none more than 19 years old, there was a blunt feminist practicality about Miss Waugh's reason for devising equipment to remove and replace checks on lathes, which was her special £200 prize for girl engineers offered by Women in Science and Engineering (Robin Young writes). "I dropped a chuck on my finger", she said, "and that made me think something was needed to make the job easier and safer". The

winner of the title, Young Engineer of the Year 1988, had personal reasons for his invention, too. Mr Dagley-Morris, aged 17, from Cheltenham College, developed his Rapidcall, a radio-controlled panic button for the elderly which will operate existing alarm systems after his grandmother went into an old people's home. Rapidcall is now patented, and an international conglomerate is interested in marketing it. Presenting the awards, Sir Peter Walters, chairman of British Petroleum, said that Rapidcall was "highly commercial and extremely relevant to real life". (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Image-makers to boost low police morale

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

London's police feel beleaguered, confused about the point of their work and divided among themselves, according to a report on the image of the Metropolitan Police commissioned by Scotland Yard and published yesterday.

The report, by Wolff Olins, a company specializing in improving corporate images, is based on a £150,000, six-month survey of 250 police and community leaders. It shows that changes are still needed despite wide police reforms since the Scarman report and the Policy Studies Institute report on the London force.

The report discovered universal criticism of the complaints system, denigration of publicly praised street patrol policemen by other specialist officers, stifling promotion procedures and a recognition among police that a minority of officers continue to treat the public with aggression.

The report said: "This minority who are rude or insensitive create an atmosphere for the whole of the Met which deeply embarrasses the majority."

The report called *A Force for Change: A report on the corporate identity of the Metropolitan Police* said: "The attitude of the Met towards the world in which it works can best be described as wary. Many policemen and women feel beleaguered and

misunderstood." The report found the poor complaints system was a big focus of dissatisfaction.

Should a member of the public want to complain he may be greeted unhelpfully and enter a shabby station in which notices are stuck at random on walls.

On the positive side, the report found that 69 per cent of Londoners think the police do a very good or fairly good job although this percentage drops among non-white groups. However, community leaders felt police attitudes were improving.

The report is being seen as an important assessment of the voice of the force. It is expected to become the first stage in the creation of a new image for the force, aimed at bolstering public and police confidence.

The Yard will not comment until after a high-level conference next month which is expected to back the recommendations of Wolff Olins. The first step would be the appointment of a senior officer to make management changes and find methods of rewarding good work. This would be followed by design changes.

Wolff Olins has already worked for the DTI Department of Trade and Industry and Bovis. Within a few years London police could have new uniforms, insignia and redesigned stations.

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Warning on cuts to radio services

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A warning to the Foreign Office about the dangers of closing down any of the BBC's foreign language radio services was given yesterday by Mr John Tusa, managing director of the World Service.

He told the Royal Institute of International Affairs that the World Service had suffered too much over the years from "chopping and changing" - usually chopping, with politicians tempted to try to fine tune broadcasting as if "it can be switched on and off like a tap".

Speaking on the fiftieth anniversary of the setting up of the BBC French and German services, Mr Tusa said that since World War II Foreign Office policy makers appeared to understand "the value of broadcasting to the enemy rather better than the value of talking to friends".

The Foreign Office, which provides the £110 million budget for the World Service, often failed to realize the importance of maintaining services which could suddenly become important in the event of an unforeseen crisis, he said.

"It was after all in 1981 that the Spanish and Brazilian

services were heavily cut, despite BBC and other protests. The cuts became operative on the very day the Task Force sailed for the Falklands. If in doubt the opt for continuity.

"Less than a decade ago, the BBC Burmese Service was slated for closure. Today diplomats in Rangoon assess that 90 per cent of Burmese tune in and trust it", he said.

Nobody was very good at identifying the next world crisis, Mr Tusa said, and - quoting remarks made 30 years ago by Sir Ian Jacob, then BBC director-general, he added that seeking to save the cost of a particular language service on the grounds that problems in the country involved were unlikely to arise "is like an attempt to pick out the notes of a piano keyboard which will not be wanted".

Mr Tusa added: "Thirty years later, Jacob's remarks still hold good and have been vindicated by time and experience. The great languages of French and German represent major notes on the keyboard of international communications. It is imperative we should continue to be able to play them."

Coastguards 'miss Mayday calls'

Mayday calls are being missed by Britain's coastguards because of ineffective radio listening equipment, it was claimed yesterday.

The coastguards fear it could take another major tragedy such as Zeebrugge or Piper Alpha to bring their message home. They say they are no longer able to operate efficiently, causing delays and putting lives at risk.

"At best, time is lost, at worst it's lives", Mr Andy Cory, vice-chairman of the coastguards committee of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants and a staff officer at Brixham station, Devon, said.

"I worry that someone is going to shout Mayday, we'll miss it and only later will a ship report bodies floating in the sea."

The crisis was discussed yesterday by 22 union delegates at a meeting in London.

Their fears are caused by the weight of work now being placed on the remaining 24 stations around Britain. Three of those are under threat of closure.

"The way this equipment operates means that any number of calls can come in at once; they're all channelled into one headset. A routine call being made by one boat might totally override a Mayday from another and we won't know anything about it", Mr Cory said.

He said recently that Falmouth, one of the busiest stations in the country, had six calls on the distress channels come in at once, leaving one casual auxiliary coastguard to try to decipher them.

"It's a bit like trying to listen to Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Luxembourg at the same time and pick out who's saying what. It's just impossible", Mr Cory said.

Bird lovers fight plan for 30,000 new houses

National and regional conservation groups yesterday outlined their environmental objections to the south-east Dorset structure plan which proposes the development of nearly 30,000 houses in the region over the next 15 years.

At a public meeting in Bournemouth groups including the Nature Conservation Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds told of their concern for the future of local heathlands.

Mr Jim White, spokesman for the Dorset branch of the Nature Conservation Council, said: "Special measures are required to protect valuable areas of low heathland. They

are of global importance because of the wide variety of wildlife they preserve."

The conservation groups fear that if heathland are destroyed species such as sand lizards and smooth snakes could be lost forever.

Mr John Waldon, south-west conservation officer for the RSPB, said: "We are very concerned that new developments at Holton Heath and Sandford have had serious effects on rare birds such as the Dartford warbler, nightjar and wood lark."

The public meeting, which will also cover employment and transportation, is expected to last two weeks.

SAS ve challenger

Strike dockers

Revolt gro Women

Jarre show

Civilians reject counsel claims that they muddled sequence of events

SAS version of shootings challenged by witnesses

From Tony Dawe, Gibraltar
Two witnesses to the shooting of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar disputed yesterday the evidence given by the SAS soldiers who carried out the killings.

Mrs Josie Celecia told the inquest into the deaths that she heard shots fired while one of the terrorists, Daniel McCann, lay on the ground. The soldiers who killed him, known only as A and B, have said they stopped firing before he hit the ground.

Mr Stephen Bullock described how two other soldiers, known as C and D, watched the shooting before running after another terrorist, Sean Savage, and killing him. They have said that they were about to arrest Savage when the first shots were fired behind them and out of their sight.

Both witnesses, who featured in the television film *Death on the Rock*, were accused of muddling the events of the day during cross-



examination by Mr Michael Hucker, representing the seven SAS soldiers involved in the operation. He said they had been overheard discussing the case before giving evidence yesterday morning and he would call a police officer to give details of the conversation.

In spite of the cross-examination and Mr Hucker's constant mispronunciation of her name, Mrs Celecia stuck to the story of what she saw from her first floor flat overlooking the Shell petrol station where McCann and the leader of the gang, Mairiad Farrell, were shot. She said she had noticed the couple but then turned to look at children in an adventure playground.

"I heard two loud bangs. I was looking where they had come from and I saw the man and the woman on the ground," Mrs Celecia said. "I then heard further shots from that direction. There was

a man on the pavement with his hands pointing towards the couple. I was just hearing loud bangs and I didn't see a gun."

She was shown pictures of the scene taken by her husband a few minutes after the shooting and asked to identify the man she had seen pointing at the couple on the ground. She said he was not in the picture but Mr Hucker said that both soldiers A and B were clearly visible close to the bodies.

She also said that she saw Farrell and McCann carrying motor-cycle crash helmets, one red and one black, which were later placed on the wall in front of the petrol station. The inquest has been told however, that two policemen later arrived at the scene on motor-cycles and placed their helmets, one red and one black, on the wall.

Mr Hucker suggested to Mrs Celecia: "The truth is that you have got a muddled version of events and it has become embroidered over the months". Mrs Celecia replied: "I am just saying what I saw."

Mr Bullock, an English barrister working in Gibraltar, described how he was taking a stroll with his pregnant wife



Mrs Josie Celecia, who gave evidence yesterday, with her husband, Douglas

and young daughter when a man pushed past him. He said the man had a gun sticking out of the back of his jeans and met up with another man at a road junction.

"At that point, the police car we had passed earlier pulled out of the line of traffic, went down the wrong side of the road and as it drew level with us it turned its siren on", Mr Bullock said.

"Almost simultaneously, I heard a sudden burst of shots

at the petrol station. The siren came first, then almost within a split second the first of the shots. I saw a man standing on the road almost at the edge of the pavement with another man four feet away. The man on the pavement was reeling backwards and the man standing in the road was firing very rapidly.

"As the shooting stopped outside the petrol station, I looked back towards the two men I had seen before it

started. They both turned and ran round the corner and there was another very long burst of shooting.

"At that point I dived down beside the wall, and pulled my wife and the pushchair down beside me."

Mr Hucker referred to previous evidence from a police inspector in the patrol car who had said it passed the petrol station before the shooting began and to the evidence of soldiers C and D that they had

not witnessed the shooting of Farrell and McCann. He suggested to Mr Bullock that he got the events out of sequence.

Mr Bullock said he did not accept this.

Mrs Lucinda Bullock, his wife, said she could not be certain whether the firing started before or after the police car had pulled out. She said: "There was so much going on and my immediate concern was for my child". The inquest continues.

Anger over jobs for life

Strike ballot on dockers' holidays

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

About 9,000 dockers are to vote on whether to hold a number of 24-hour strikes to back a claim for more holidays after more than 200 Conservative backbenchers tabled a motion calling for the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme.

The MPs believe the Government should risk a national dock strike in order to end the "jobs for life" scheme, which employers say has driven trade to continental ports and prevented the creation of 50,000 jobs.

The campaign will be intensified at the Conservative Party conference after figures from the National Association of Port Employers have shown that in some ports dockers, who were paid on average £357 a week, have been under-employed by between 20 to 25 hours a week. At the conference the case for abolition will be put to a fringe meeting by Mr Leon Brittan, the former Home Secretary.

In Newcastle dockers were this year putting in an average of 16.6 hours a week to receive £239, which included three hours of overtime. Employers say overmanning and inefficiency mean that while a

tonne of cargo in Amsterdam can be unloaded for £2.50 to £3.50, British costs vary from £7 to £15.

Mr Malcolm Thornton, Conservative MP for Crosby, said yesterday: "The scheme is an anachronism. In just one port, Liverpool, it has cost employers hundreds of thousands of pounds and scared business away."

"We believe the Government must now tackle this problem head on although there appears to be a certain reluctance to do so."

Employers say ports which are not in the scheme, are highly efficient, competitive and offer secure long-term employment for their workforce.

Frustration has been heightened by the National Dock Labour Board, which administers the scheme. It is divided equally between employers and unions so deadlock is common.

The strike ballot, which will be completed next week, is over a claim for a 30-day holiday. Employers have offered an additional day, giving 22 days, and have linked the offer with a demand for the end of the system of paying the men in cash.

Revolt grows over women priests

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The first steps towards a split in the Church of England over the ordination of women will be taken at a meeting this weekend of churchmen opposed to the move who claim they have the support of nearly a third of the ministry.

The committee will meet in Oxfordshire to discuss proposals which emerged at a private conference last June attended by 250 churchmen. It approved a resolution stating that the Church of England and the Church in Wales "do not have the authority to proceed with the ordination of women to the priesthood".

In a report arising from the conference, the organizers identify several courses of action which they say are advisable. These include the withholding of money, setting up an alternative network of sympathetic bishops, a legal challenge to any decision of the General Synod to ordain women and putting local church assets out of the reach of those favouring women priests.

The group, which is as yet unnamed, proposes to hold a national conference in York early next year when the proposals will be submitted.

The overwhelming view of the June conference at Keble College, Oxford, which the organizers have taken to be their mandate, was that opponents of women priests should stay within the Church of England, in a state of open revolt if necessary, rather than form a new church or join another.

In an introduction to the report, the organizers give a warning that if the ordination of women went ahead, the church "would be a church marked by internal division, civil disobedience and in some areas radical un-governability", with divisions polarized at least for several generations.

The report notes a sharp fall in recruitment to the three Anglo-Catholic theological colleges, Chichester, Mirfield and St Stephen's House, Oxford, because of the controversy over women priests. Chichester, which has a normal annual intake of 26 ordinands, is down to four for the coming term. Mr Derek Paton, secretary general of the General Synod, who attended the Oxford conference, said the situation was "very serious indeed".

Jarre show proposals

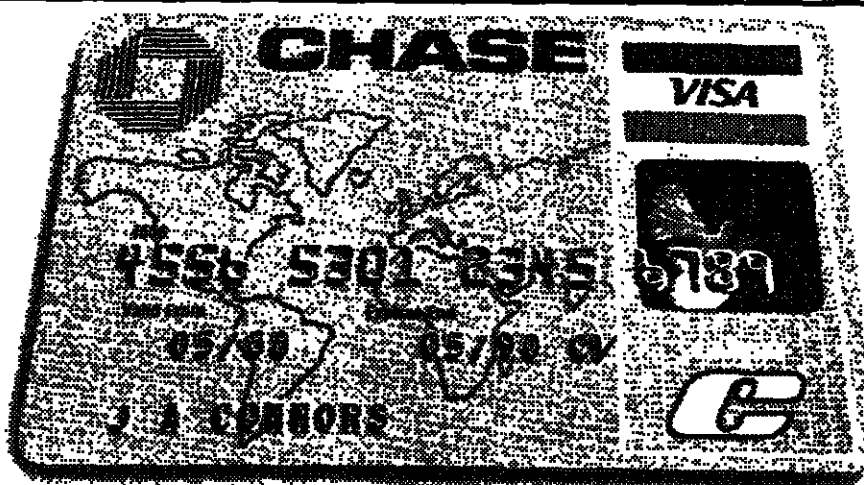
By Emma Wilkins

Jean Michel Jarre's docklands rock concert will not go ahead this weekend. However, Newham council, which blocked the concert on safety grounds, is considering a new application.

A meeting of the environment and planning committee will decide next Tuesday whether to accept Jarre's modified proposals for two concerts on October 8 and 9. Councillor Fred Jones, leader of Newham council, said: "I think these new proposals

have a chance of diluting the numbers of people coming into Newham."

However, the dates of the proposed concerts are causing confusion. The original application was for October 7 and 8. But at a meeting earlier this week, Friday was rejected because of flight traffic at London city airport would be disturbed by the laser show. Even the new proposal for a Sunday concert has hit problems because of legislation against Sunday trading.



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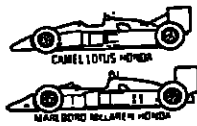
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At speed, every car starts to defy gravity. The phenomenon is called lift.

You don't exactly see cars flying past the window, of course, but the effects of lift, as any racing driver will tell you, are profound.

The car feels over-light in your hands and the back end - the most aerodynamically vulnerable part of the car - rises up, causing the nose to pitch. In short, stability is compromised.

Lift is the reason fast cars have spoilers, which, if you think about it, are basically upside-down wings. The aim is to reduce the car's lift coefficient, and thus improve stability.

The Honda Aerodeck EXi achieves its remarkably low lift coefficient of 0.04 in a way that is, at once, both more innovative and more elegant. It is designed into the very shape of the car.

That distinctive long roofline plays a vital role. Put

simply, it acts as one long spoiler.

The result is a car with superb handling characteristics. "Neutral, predictable and very enjoyable" was how Autocar magazine described the feeling. Rock-like stability is achieved at all speeds.

If stability is a desirable attribute in any car, it is especially so in a car that can be put to so many practical uses. Who knows what precious things you'll be carrying in the Aerodeck's spacious, versatile interior?

Antiques, perhaps. The odd few cases of Chateau Lafite. The family china. The family labradors. Most precious of all, the family itself.

For its human occupants the Aerodeck EXi offers a generous range of safety and comfort features to match its safe and comfortable ride.

Taking comfort first, power steering, electric windows and mirrors, electric sunroof, and four speaker stereo, are all fitted as standard. While in the interests of safety

you have Honda's second generation anti-lock braking system, cruise control, and one of those nice Honda touches, a mechanical seat belt feeder for the driver.

Moving from what's under the roof to what's under the bonnet, the Aerodeck EXi is powered by a 2 litre, 12 valve programmed fuel injection engine.

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Naturally, what Honda learn on the track is applied

to our road cars. (Indeed, studying cars capable of over 200 mph is one of the ways our engineers learned so much about aerodynamics and lift.)

It would be wrong, however, to leave you with the impression that Honda engineers pursue efficiency to the exclusion of all else.

True, the Aerodeck is designed to be practical. But it's equally true that the car is designed to give its owner a sense of style and individuality. Apart from the sheer elegance of its shape, how many other hatchbacks or estates feature retractable headlights and a gull-wing tailgate?

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Pretoria sets conditions on signing nuclear curbs pact

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

South Africa yesterday told Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States that it is willing in principle to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but only with conditions which will probably be impossible to accept.

The three nations are known as the "depository powers" because the original copies of the 1970 treaty are deposited with them. A South African delegation led by Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, last month held separate talks with each of the three on the possibility of Pretoria's signing the pledge to refrain from building its own nuclear weapons.

Mr Botha surprised the three by acknowledging publicly that South Africa had the capability to make such weapons — something which had long been assumed. Yesterday it submitted a paper setting out its position more fully. It said that while it was willing to accept the treaty, it first

wanted to clarify the responsibilities and privileges it would enjoy.

Western diplomatic sources said it was clear from the text that Pretoria wanted the right to buy civil nuclear technology and to sell its nuclear materials, including uranium, for signing the treaty. Any other new member of the NPT would receive this automatically, but South Africa is banned under a string of international accords.

One of these, signed by the Commonwealth heads of government in 1985, bans "new contracts for the sale of nuclear goods, materials and technology to South Africa".

The responsibilities which South Africa wants to "clarify" include the obligation under the treaty to open its nuclear establishments for inspection, to ensure that it is not producing weapons-grade nuclear materials.

It already allows such inspections at two plants, but

not at a third, the Valindaba research centre, which remains secret. The sources said the three powers would want to be absolutely sure that Pretoria would accept inspections at all plants.

Pretoria delivered its paper to representatives of the three powers at the annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which opened yesterday in Vienna.

Delegates from black African states hope to pass a resolution to expel South Africa from the IAEA, but the British Government is opposed to this, saying that the NPT should not be affected by regional issues.

The timing of South Africa's submission is being seen by some black African delegates as a diversionary move. But the three depository powers want South Africa both to remain in the IAEA and to sign the NPT.

In a joint statement yesterday they said: "Such access

ion we strongly believe is in the best interest of all countries of the region and of the world as a whole."

The sources said that the prize of securing South Africa's agreement not to produce nuclear weapons was more important than what would be an essentially emotional gesture in excluding it from another international forum.

But unless South Africa made a gesture to mollify its critics within the IAEA, pressure for expulsion could become too strong to contain.

Previous attempts to expel it have come to nothing, but earlier this year it became clear that the issue turned on whether Pretoria would agree to sign the treaty.

Accession to the treaty has not previously been a condition for membership of the IAEA. Neither France nor China has signed it, but both belong to the agency.

Pretoria test, page 9

Gandhi brings peace offer to Punjab



Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, talking to children dressed in traditional costume during a one-day visit to the troubled state of Punjab yesterday.

Although his appearance was heavily guarded and thinly attended, Mr Gandhi took the opportunity to announce a new Punjab peace initiative, including an all-party meeting in Delhi (Kuldip Nayar writes). He said that the Government

would restore popular rule in Punjab, but before calling state assembly elections would assess whether there was a "conducive atmosphere" by holding elections to panchayats (village councils). "I have come to Punjab to pay homage to all those people, irrespective of party affiliation, who have faced bullets of the terrorists while defending the integrity of the country," he said, praising in

particular the Bhartiya Janata party and the Communists. He also promised government action against harassment, a reference to the common complaint that in pursuing terrorism the police extort money and intimidate members of the public. Without mentioning Pakistan by name, he said that "certain foreign forces" had tried to foment communal riots in Punjab.

Activists 'threatened with re-arrest'

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress leader, claimed yesterday that the South African authorities had threatened to re-arrest three black activists enjoying sanctuary in the United States Consulate if they did not accept a one-way ticket out of the country.

In Cape Town, meanwhile, the police detained 11 other activists, all members of the United Democratic Front, a loose alliance of anti-apar-

theid bodies which has been banned from all political activity. The three men in the American Consulate are linked to the front.

Speaking after spending 45 minutes with the three men, Mrs Mandela said that because of the alleged threat they were "in no position to trust any other assurances that are made at this stage".

This was a reference to a statement issued last week on behalf of Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and

Order, that the Government no longer needed to detain the three men.

They had escaped from their police guards while undergoing physiotherapy treatment at a hospital here.

The statement said that the men would not be arrested if they left the Consulate.

"On the very first night they spent at the American (Consulate), the offer that came from the Government at 11 p.m. was that they should leave the country by 12

o'clock, and that if they did not do so they were liable for the most severe action," Mrs Mandela said.

If they did not accept, "the Government was going to bombard this building with their security forces and they were going to be re-detained".

A Law and Order Ministry spokesman said last night that the allegations were untrue.

As far as the police were concerned, the three men could "leave the (Consulate) premises today".

Total blackout looms as strike spreads throughout French public TV

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Journalists, technicians and administrative staff at the French state television channel, Antenne 2, went on strike yesterday, reducing the station to its obligatory minimum service of two news programmes a day.

The strikers are expected to be joined today by news staff on the other public television channel, FR3, and by FR3 technicians on Monday. Unless an agreement is reached, the shutdown of the

public broadcasting service will be complete by Tuesday, when staff under the control of Radio-France, including Radio-France Internationale — the French equivalent of the BBC World Service — come out on strike.

The strike is over the disparity in wage payments between the private and public channels, but is also a product of staff discontent over government policy on broadcasting.

The six television stations, both private and public, compete —

with an almost identical diet of old films and foreign series — for revenue from advertising which they are all allowed to carry.

The decision by Antenne 2 to lure a top newsreader, Christine Ockrent, from a rival private channel by offering her a salary of £140,000 triggered the strike. Mile Ockrent's salary is four times what established Antenne 2 news staff are earning. Those lower down the scale earn in a year what she does in a month.

Mile Ockrent is working on

throughout the strike. She reads the evening news which Antenne 2 is obliged by law to transmit.

Last-minute offers to review salaries failed to avert the stoppage. Strikers want a new overall wage structure, better working conditions and a definition by the Government of the role of public television. Are they supposed to remain in competition with the richer private channels without the money needed to succeed? Or should they provide an alternative service, creating French-made

documentaries, drama, children's and cultural programmes?

In 1982, the Socialist Government set up a broadcasting authority designed to end direct political interference in radio and television. New heads of public channels were installed.

On coming to power in 1986, the conservatives disbanded the authority, which was considered too left-wing, and installed their own. The state TV chiefs were changed again.

At the same time, the Socialists

and the conservatives handed out licences to new private stations, in which both Mr Robert Maxwell and the Italian television magnate, Signor Silvio Berlusconi, have a stake.

The new Socialist Government is preparing a Bill to sweep away the conservative broadcasting authority. M Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, has been holding inter-party consultations in what he says is an attempt to create an independent authority, which will set down new regulations for

broadcasting. Until the new authority is established, the Government does not wish to continue the ritual of appointing its own men at the top.

In a television debate on the future of television recently, there were complaints that the few quality programmes are shown late at night. However, it was made clear that the sole criteria of the channels is ratings, and for them what most French people want are old films or high-stake quiz shows.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Soldiers' revolt spreads in Haiti

Port-au-Prince (AP) — A left wing coalition called a demonstration yesterday amid widening revolts by soldiers and workers, apparently in a popular uprising against the vestiges of ousted Lieutenant General Henri Namphy's military rule. The soldiers' revolt began on Sunday when General Namphy was removed and spread after the new regime of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril failed to expel army commanders who had been left in place.

Rank-and-file soldiers in at least 11 army and police units around the country have mutinied and removed their officers. "We will chase out the army of all supporters of Namphy, Manigat and Duvalier," a Port-au-Prince policeman said in a radio interview. Yesterday radio stations said civilian workers at the state electricity company, port authority and flour mill had gone on strike.

British fugitive fined

Boston (AP) — A British citizen, who was captured in Rome in May after five years as a fugitive, was fined £14,705 after admitting violating export controls by selling computer equipment to Eastern Bloc countries. In an arrangement with the US Justice Department, Brian Moller Butcher, from London, pleaded guilty to five counts of violating the Commodities Control Act by funneling computer and laboratory equipment through Britain to Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. Fourteen other counts were dropped.

The Justice Department contended that the items were computer processors that had military applications, but Butcher maintained the equipment was "low-technology" Hewlett-Packard test equipment that could have been purchased in a number of countries but was cheaper in the United States.

Gemayel seeks help

West Beirut — President Amin Gemayel flew to Damascus yesterday to seek help from President Assad of Syria in Lebanon's political crisis a day before the presidential elections (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes). President Assad's two choices for the presidency have been swiftly vetoed by Christian politicians sympathetic to Israel.

The unexpected trip aroused considerable hope in Beirut, where tension had been increasing as politicians tried in vain not only to find a candidate acceptable to Christians and Muslims, but at least to agree on the venue for today's vote. President Gemayel was expected to meet leaders of the Christian and Muslim opposition who had also been summoned for last-minute talks under Syrian auspices.

Bolivia clears decks

La Paz (AP) — President Victor Paz Estenssoro of Bolivia has reorganized his Cabinet to allow ministers who will run in the May 1989 presidential and congressional elections to the office. All 17 ministers resigned on Tuesday, campaign for Paz Estenssoro later named 13 to their former posts. He said he would continue his economic programme with lowered inflation from 24,000 per cent four years ago to an estimated 20 per cent for 1988; it has involved liberalizing the economy, ending all price supports, a 95 per cent devaluation and a tenfold increase in petrol prices.

Plea on Cambodia

A dozen Nobel laureates, including the British author, Sir William Golding, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, appealed to the UN Secretary General yesterday to cease recognition of the coalition Government of Cambodia in favour of the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh (Nicholas Beeson writes). In a letter delivered to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in New York the scientists, writers and peace activists urged the international community to reject the credentials of the Government, which is dominated by the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot.

Pressure mounts on Tokyo to cut £116m aid to Burma

From Edward Gorman, Bangkok

As Western governments react to the deepening crisis in Burma by suspending aid to Rangoon, the Japanese Government — by far the biggest donor — is coming under increasing pressure to follow suit.

Japanese assistance programmes account for about 70 per cent of Burma's overseas aid and are valued in Tokyo at up to 50 billion yen (about £116 million) annually. The projects include a major development at Rangoon airport, building rice storage centres, and a programme for training forestry workers.

With other overseas donor countries, Japan has made no formal decision to end its aid, but has suspended involvement "until Burma attains liberty and democracy".

Japanese sources here say they believe that Tokyo lacks the courage to take the policy to its logical conclusion with a formal suspension of aid to a government it has long considered an ally. One well placed observer said: "The policy is changing day by day, but the Government still doesn't have enough confidence to carry it out."

Some Western diplomats say that the Japanese have continued their involvement despite the informal suspension. "They say it's too small to make any difference," said one diplomat, "which isn't true. Compared to everyone else, it is significant."

The Japanese position is seen as difficult because they have invested relatively heavily in Ne Win's authoritarian regime over 10 years and are now reluctant to burn their boats in

case he may yet ride out the crisis. "They have a big investment in Burma, which they consider their backyard," the diplomat said. "They thought Ne Win would be able to hang in there."

Mr Shiro Hirohata, an official at the Japanese Embassy here, said that the aid decision was still being assessed: "We are a little hesitant to use the stoppage of aid to put pressure on the Bur-

Bangkok (Reuters) — Gunfire echoed through Rangoon and Mandalay again yesterday as the military clashed with opponents to their rule.

Opposition forces vowed to return to work until a pro-democracy government was named. Meanwhile General Saw Maung, leader of Sunday's military coup, assumed the prime ministership in addition to the foreign affairs and defence portfolios he had already taken over.

mess, because it will affect not only the Government but the people as well."

What is seen by many Burmese as Japanese vacillation has won them few friends among the Burmese Opposition. Dr Chaya Choke Churakirong, a Burma expert at Chulalongkorn University here, said: "They seem to be disappointing the Opposition a lot because they say they have not come out strongly enough against the Government."

Almost all other Western countries involved have made informal decisions to suspend aid. There has been no official

US aid to Burma since July, and on Monday the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Gaston Sigur, recommended that the programmes, worth about \$12.2 million (£7 million), be cut off completely.

The Americans, who may still provide emergency assistance, are third behind the West Germans in terms of total budget devoted to Burma. West Germany suspended all assistance (totalling about £22 million) at the end of August on the grounds that the Burma Socialist Programme Party was violating human rights. Much smaller Australian and British projects have also been suspended.

Western embassies here are resigned to the suspension of aid having a negligible impact on the country's rulers, reflecting its isolationist policy for much of the last 26 years. Even in the case of the Japanese, this policy has restricted foreign investment and ensured that no outside country acquired leverage over the Government.

"We want to make clear that we do not approve of what is going on, and this is the only way of doing it," an American diplomat said. "It is not the money per se that's going to make any difference, but international opprobrium of what the Government is doing that might have an impact."

Another observer said it was as important to register disapproval with the military regime as it was to send signals of support to Opposition leaders. "They may be the government we deal with in the future," he said.

Hong Kong election

Democracy for the few

From Chris Pomeroy, Hong Kong

Hong Kong goes to the polls today for only the second round of legislative elections in its 147-year history.

But this dynamic colony is hardly bubbling with excitement about its continuing courtship with democracy. Only 16,833 people of a population of 5.5 million are eligible to vote for the 13 contested seats.

Political realities are changing fast in Hong Kong these days, despite the low-key elections, as the realization sinks in that China has no intention of allowing a power vacuum to develop as Britain withdraws from its last significant colony in the run-up to the hand-over of sovereignty in 1997.

Five years ago, Sir Edward Youde, the then governor, indicated that the Government was committed to introducing universal franchise elections as a priority. Today, as China takes the political initiative during the extended drafting process of the Basic Law, its post-1997 mini-constitution for Hong Kong, the Government stresses caution over experiment.

Despite diplomatic promises agreed by Britain and China that the legislature would be "constituted by elections" after 1997, electoral reform and full democracy now have a lower priority.

The Government announced in February that the first direct ballot elections would not be introduced until 1991, and then only for a minority of seats. Meanwhile, the electoral system in use today would tax the most imaginative psephologist.

For years the colonial gov-

ernment touted gradual democracy as part of a learning process designed to propel Hong Kong out of its deliberately fostered political apathy, and into a new role thrust upon it by the transition to 1997 as a stand-alone capitalist enclave in the world's largest communist state.

The system is already showing the strains. In one geographical constituency, some local councillors have taken to polling residents to find out for whom they should vote. Others have objected, saying that such an indirect way of searching for a direct mandate hampers their ability to choose the right candidate.

Only one campaign has lived up to true election standards. This is the functional constituency for the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, where Mr Jimmy McGregor, a former director, is being challenged by Miss Veronica Wu, a businesswoman.

"I'm facing a machine," says Mr McGregor of his opponent's backers, members of a conservative caucus group of local businessmen known as the Group of 88, who form the backbone of an important consultative committee working on the draft Basic Law.

Mr McGregor, who favours early direct elections, continues: "This election is not about people, it's about forces."

"Actually it's the other way," Miss Wu claims. "We're not pro-Chinese, we're pro-Hong Kong," she says, stressing that co-operation may be more fruitful in the long run than conflict.



Mr Martin Lee: Unopposed as the lawyers' candidate.

With less than 2 per cent of the population eligible to vote, only half of those eligible have registered for today's election. That drops the electorate from 100,000 to just 61,519.

As half of the elected seats, including those of such outspoken pro-democrats as the lawyers' Mr Martin Lee, QC, and Mr Szeto Wah of the teachers, are unopposed, the potential voter figure drops to about 16,833. Assuming a turnout no worse than 1985, today's 13 contested seats will be allocated through the actual votes of just 9,000 people.

A few years ago, the Gov-

Ecological battle puts Corfu holidays at risk

From Mario Modiano, Athens

An "ecological war" between the Athens Government and the country's north-western provinces is posing problems for thousands of British holidaymakers who flock to the island of Corfu to bask in the warm September sun.

All the shops, banks and offices on the island of 100,000 people, will close today for three days as Corfu joins the revolt of Thesprotia, the mainland province across the waterway, against a plan to dump sewage into the river Kalamas. The river, reputed to be one of the cleanest in Europe, winds its way through Thesprotia and flows into the two-

mile wide channel that separates it from Corfu.

"We have declared a general strike for Thursday, Friday and Saturday," Mr Yiannis Kourkoulos, the Mayor of Corfu, said. "This is only a warning. If the Government does not recant by Monday, we have decided to close the airport and our ports on September 27 and 28."

An estimated 25,000 British tourists are on this popular island resort. Mrs Philippa Hughes, the British Consul, did not expect them to have much difficulty except in finding open restaurants or supermarkets. The real trouble is expected next week if the airport and ports are closed.

For the past 10 days Thesprotia, a

farming district of 42,000 people bordering on Albania, has been cut off from the rest of Greece both by land and sea as its inhabitants protested against the project to channel the sewage of the town of Ioannina into the river.

In Igoumenitsa, the provincial capital, all ferry services to Corfu and Italy were suspended and bus services halted. Lorries and tractors were used as roadblocks along the main roads, locking thousands of vehicles into gigantic traffic jams.

Shops, schools and banks remain closed. Public buildings have been taken over by a Citizens' Action Committee which now runs this town of 10,000. Every evening, in

front of the deserted Prefecture people mass to discuss their problems, especially the growing food and fuel shortages.

Two farmers, who were staging a hunger strike outside the Prefecture, were taken to hospital on Tuesday, but 40 other hunger-strikers in a neighbouring village are still holding out.

Foreign motorists, who were trapped in the district by the blockade, were helped to escape across mudtracks and fields.

The Greek Government, taken by surprise by the unusual vigour of the reaction to an ecological problem, backed down by offering to stop all construction work between Ioannina's biological treatment plant

and the river for eight months to give experts time to consider alternative solutions for sewage disposal.

But the Thesprotians rejected the proposal yesterday and vowed to continue the blockade. Mr Alexos Fatsios, a member of the 17-man Action Committee, said: "We shall struggle until the Government agrees to rule out any solution that involves dumping sewage into the Kalamas river and Ioannina Lake."

The Prefect of Thesprotia, Mr Panayotis Kallias, said he did not believe those views reflected the will of the majority. "However, we face a serious impasse," he said. Police in the province were on full alert, but so far they had refrained from intervening.

The meeting that Noriega says never took place

Bush. The Reagan Administration has been accused of ignoring evidence against General Noriega, while he has denied the allegations, and claims that he never met Mr Bush.

He must do better than the Reagan record. For the Democrats to exploit this burgeoning green issue fully, Mr Dukakis must be more forceful in asking, on the environment: "Where was George?"

But equally, some local

Map showing the Gulf of Mexico and surrounding regions. Key features include:

- Gulf of Mexico
- Mexico
- Central America
- Caribbean Sea
- Atlantic Ocean
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Europe
- Asia
- Australia

Arafat's Cairo talks add impetus to drive for Palestinian pact

From Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent, Cairo

The pace of Middle East diplomacy quickened significantly yesterday as Mr Yassir Arafat made a long-heralded visit to Cairo for talks with President Mubarak on the eve of the Egyptian leader's whistle-stop tour of four European capitals, including London.

Mr Mubarak is to fly to Yugoslavia today to start his trip which will also take in Britain, France and West Germany. He is scheduled to meet Mrs Thatcher on Monday amid hopes in moderate Arab circles that she can play an increasing role in the peace process.

The Cairo talks involving the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization came amid fierce internal debate among Palestinians over proposals for a provisional government or government-in-exile to fill the vacuum in the occupied West Bank. King Hussein of Jordan severed all legal and administrative links with the Israeli-held territory in July.

Making his second visit to the Egyptian capital in two years, Mr Arafat denied suggestions that the government-in-exile option had been abandoned.

Mr Arafat, whose good personal relations with President Mubarak helped to pave the way for Egypt's return to the Arab fold, said that the options for a Palestinian government would be put forward at a meeting of the 500-member Palestine National Council, to

take place in Algiers next month.

"We are at the threshold of struggle and an important political stage, during which new shapes for the Palestinian cause will be decided upon," Mr Arafat said.

Egyptian officials made no attempt to disguise their satisfaction that the timing of the PLO leader's visit enhanced the role being played by Egypt in the latest attempts to resolve the Middle East crisis, and also increased the importance of President Mubarak's own European tour.

Dr Mamdouh el-Beltagy, chairman of the State Information Service, said that the tour was further proof that Egypt was "a genuinely peace-making nation that is capable of dialogue with all different parties".

Dr Beltagy claimed that the Egyptian leader's trip was taking place at "a critical juncture in the history of the Middle East". As well as the nine-month old uprising in the occupied territories and King Hussein's action, he said, there existed "an increasing moderate segment among both Israelis and Palestinians that advocates a negotiated solution of the conflict".

Senior Western and East Bloc diplomats remain uncertain about the extent to which President Mubarak, a man noted for his diplomatic caution, will be prepared to publicly support the idea of a

Palestinian government-in-exile, although many of his close advisers believe it is now vital to maintain the diplomatic momentum prompted by the Palestinian uprising.

Mr Arafat emphasized yesterday that both Egypt and the PLO believed that Europe could play an important role in achieving a just peace in the Middle East, "taking into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination".

Mrs Thatcher's talks with the Egyptian President will take place on the same day as President Reagan is due to meet the Egyptian and Israeli Foreign Ministers, Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid and Mr Shimon Peres, in the US. "As Mrs Thatcher has herself just met with Peres, her own position to be of important influence in the region is increasing at a vital moment," an Egyptian source said.

President Mubarak will also be using his European tour to mobilize Western support for Egypt's grave economic problems and to help him water down demands from the International Monetary Fund for reforms which Egyptian officials insist could threaten the country's whole social fabric and provoke riots.

The IMF has insisted that Egypt slash its £12 billion budget deficit, increase domestic interest rates and raise the prices of state subsidized fuel and food.

Pakistani fanfare greets birth of Benazir's son



Members of the Pakistan People's Party celebrating in the streets of Karachi yesterday at the news that their leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, had given birth to a 7 lb boy in a Karachi hospital.

Miss Bhutto, aged 35, had virtually trapped the late President Zia ul-Haq into calling a general election on November 16 by indicating that she would be expecting her first child at about that time (Zahid Hussain writes from Karachi).

Thousands of members of the People's Party surrounded the Lady Dufferin Hospital as the news of the birth of the grandson of the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — who was hanged by General Zia — spread quickly.

The news came as a complete surprise, as it had generally been expected that the birth would be in the second week of November.

Miss Bhutto married a Sindhi businessman, Asif Ali Zardari, aged 35, on December 18, 1987. He is not involved in politics and has remained in the background after his marriage to Pakistan's most popular politician.

Bligh and Christian take to the high seas again

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

A handshake on board a sailing ship in Sydney Harbour yesterday signalled the end of 200 years of enmity between the families of two of naval history's greatest sailors.

The meeting was an emotional one for the great, great grandsons of Captain William Bligh and first mate Fletcher Christian, the leading protagonists in one of the most documented dramas at sea, the mutiny on the Bounty.

The conversation between Captain Ron Bligh, aged 62, and Lieutenant Commander Gerald Christian, aged 30, of the Royal Australian Navy was cordial and polite.

"I think it is a privilege for us to meet", they both agreed. "The Christians and the Blighs have an honourable association and the Bounty saga still captures the imagination of people around the world."

The present-day Captain Bligh and Mr Christian plan to repeat the voyage of their ancestors on a replica of the Bounty next April, sailing from

Tahiti to Tonga and on to the Pitcairn Islands. It was near Tonga on April 28, 1789, that Mr Christian took command of the Bounty casting Captain Bligh adrift in a long boat.

The new Bounty plans to sail into Pitcairn on January 15, 1990, 200 years to the day after the mutineers landed there.

Commander Christian believes that his ancestor was murdered on the island by natives and is buried there although some historians claim that he returned to England.

At Sydney Harbour yesterday Cap-

tain Bligh and Commander Christian were handed their sailing orders for the voyage at a special ceremony.

This time however, Captain Bligh, a Merchant Navy officer for most of his life, will not have to make the 3,618-mile journey in the open boat. He will be cast adrift, but only for a few hours before returning to the Bounty to complete the voyage to Pitcairn.

Ark Royal protest: Anti-nuclear protesters who planned to kidnap the captain of the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier Ark Royal in Brisbane were foiled yesterday, and 14 were arrested.

Mozambique's dam project

Power link puts Pretoria to test

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The recent warming of the political climate between Mozambique and South Africa, ideological enemies condemned by geography and history to a relationship of economic infamy, has breathed new life into the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric project.

This is one of the most ambitious development schemes in Africa, in Mozambique's north-western Tete province. And it was no accident that President Botha and President Chissano of Mozambique chose the site of the dam, as the venue for their historic meeting earlier this month. For the dam has become a symbol of their complex state of co-existence.

The meeting put a presidential seal of approval on agreements reached earlier in the year which could enable electricity to start flowing again from the dam, providing both countries with a relatively cheap and pollution-free supply of power, and the Maputo Government with a badly needed source of income.

Everything depends, however, on whether there has been a real change of heart in Pretoria. South African support hitherto for the Renamo insurgents in Mozambique has helped to fuel the brutal civil war that has ravaged the country almost from the moment that the Marxist Frelimo liberation movement ousted the Portuguese colonial administration in 1975.

The pylons carrying the lines which transmit power from the dam over about 870 miles — 500 of them inside Mozambique — to the Apollo distribution station near Pretoria, in the Transvaal, have proved easy targets for Renamo's roving guerrilla bands. At present more than 500 of the 7,000 pylons are in need of repair.

From 1977, when the dam was commissioned, until 1980 there was a fairly reliable supply of electricity. From 1980 to 1983, as Renamo activity intensified, it was no more than intermittent. Since then it has ceased altogether.

By supporting Renamo, South Africa has thus indirectly — and on the face of it counter-productively — sabotaged a project of potential economic benefit to itself.

At a meeting in June in Lisbon, South Africa signed a

new agreement with Mozambique and Portugal for the supply of electricity from the dam. In an apparent reversal of allegiance, South Africa also agreed to help the Mozambique Army protect the power lines against Renamo.

Serious doubts remain in Lisbon and Maputo, however, about whether Pretoria really intends, or indeed is still able, to bring Renamo to heel. Even without any interference from the rebels, it would take up to 18 months to repair the damaged pylons and power lines.

Under the new contract, South Africa would initially pay about 200 million rand (£50 million at the present exchange rate) a year for electricity delivered at a level of 1,450 megawatts. This would meet about 7 per cent of the country's total needs.

The tariff would be increased by 25 per cent in 1994 and the contract would be reviewed at the end of the century. For many years ahead, the bulk of the payment by South Africa would have to be handed over to Portugal to pay off debts incurred during the building of the dam.

In the years to come, the dam should become an expanding source of revenue for Mozambique. In the late 1960s, when construction of the dam began, South Africa enjoyed high economic growth and estimated that its electricity needs would double every 10 years. At present, it has more electricity-generating capacity than it requires.

So the immediate gain for Pretoria is political and diplomatic — a more co-operative relationship with Maputo — rather than economic. For its part, Portugal is obviously anxious to see some return on its investment in the dam, still some £30 million a year in running and debt service costs.

In Maputo, the longer-term financial benefits of a re-activated Cahora Bassa are of less immediate importance than the prospect that Pretoria may at last be serious about ceasing support for the Renamo rebels.

If that proves true, President Chissano will not have swallowed his pride and treated with the Pretoria Government in vain. He is only too aware that such hopes have been raised in the past only to be dashed.

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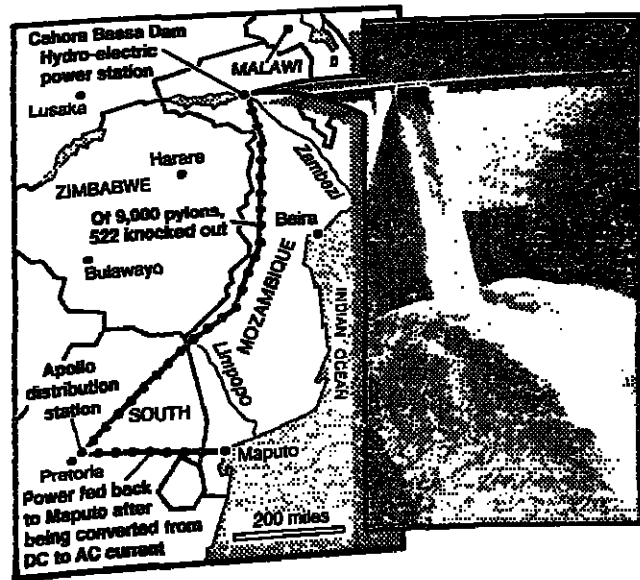
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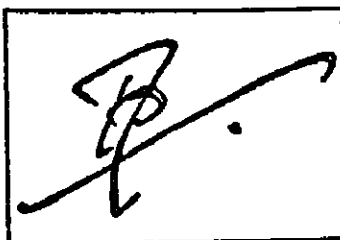
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SPECTRUM

A poet in the editor's chair



THE LETTERS OF T.S. ELIOT

PART 4

Vivien Haigh-Wood, and embarked on his literary career, while earning his living through first teaching and then banking. He also undertook a great deal of journalistic work, writing essays and book reviews for many magazines and newspapers, which added to his income as well as enhancing his literary reputation.

Having acted as assistant editor of an arts magazine called the *Egoist*, Eliot was offered, in 1919, the full-time job of assistant editor of the *Athenaeum*, which was being relaunched under the editorship of John Middleton Murry. Eliot turned down the job, preferring to remain for the time being in his secure post with the foreign department of Lloyds Bank. Two years later, however, a part-time editorship on a new magazine presented itself. We join Eliot as he explains the position to his friend Lady Ottoline Morrell:

July 14, 1921

My dear Ottoline

There has been a project for the revival of *Arts and Letters*, or rather as it now appears, a quarterly of similar size under a new name... the person to provide the money is Lady Rothermere... It has called for exceptional tact. Even now Lady R has not placed the project on a definite basis... It is not, in its present form, a scheme that could possibly replace the bank, and indeed what little I should get out of it would be no more, I imagine, than any other contributors. But it is something that, once started, one feels could be made something of, in time, and would be an interesting attempt just now when there is nothing in London. But I cannot tell you how exhausting and difficult the business has been...

That autumn, Eliot suffered what appeared to be a nervous breakdown and was advised by a specialist to take a three-month rest. It was not until January 1922 that he was able to return to planning the new magazine, writing to the publisher Richard Cobden-Sanderson:

... At the present moment everything is still in the air... and I have not seen Lady Rothermere. I will write to you a little later and tell you how things stand...

By March he was able to tell his friend and fellow poet Ezra Pound, who lived in Paris:

... I have now arranged with Lady Rothermere about the quarterly review, have decided on quite a good small format and paper, neat but no extravagance and not arty, to be published probably by Cobden-Sanderson, in such a way that I shall have only to select the contributions. She will finance it for three years anyhow, there is enough money to pay contributors at £10 per 5000 words and proportionately

(should be 80 pages) and I don't see why it shouldn't be tried and the right people as far as possible (i.e. as far as they can be enlisted) get the money regardless of consequences. Lady R is a particular admirer of yours and especially anxious for your collaboration, as of course I also consider it an essential condition. Also, my credit with her would suffer seriously if you did not. Will you therefore consider

1. A Paris letter every quarter... say 1500 words.

2. Of course cantos etc except that I suppose you would get more by putting them in the *Dial* (an American literary magazine), but I shall hope to arrange much higher rates for verse.

3. Sending over contributions by the best people... When you translate, translator's fee also.

I want the paper to be good while it lasts, and if at any time I could not have my own way with it I should drop out and publish the fact...

Pound was not exactly impressed, writing to Eliot on March 14:

Cher T: Willing to do anything for you personally, but do consider the following points: I have not the slightest interest in England. I have published nothing there since I left (a year and a quarter ago). I know absolutely nothing of England's credit. The *Morning Post* is the real voice of England and the most concentrated and persistent will toward evil in Europe...

No Englishman's word is worth a damn. I do not know whether the ladies are any more precise...

Do remember that I know nothing whatever about Lady Rothermere, save that she, by her name, appears to have married into a family which is NOT interested in good literature. I am interested in civilization, but I can't see



Fishing for *Criterion* contributors: the editor at work with below, left to right, four of his catches — Paul Valéry, André Gide, Hermann Hesse, Virginia Woolf and the first issue

| THE CRITERION | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| A QUARTERLY REVIEW | |
| Vol. I | OCTOBER 1922 No. 1 |
| CONTENTS | |
| ESSAYS | ... G. M. Dore |
| PLAY OF A NOVEL | ... G. M. Dore |
| THE LEGEND OF THE LANCE | ... T. S. Eliot |
| THE WASTE LAND | ... T. S. Eliot |
| THE VICTIM | ... Hermann Hesse |
| GERMAN POETRY OF TODAY | ... Hermann Hesse |
| REVIEWS | ... Various |

that England has anything to do with any future civilization...

I don't, demme, see why I should write a letter to London for £3... Remember I have begged myself, and kept down my rates for years by contributing to every free and idealistic magazine that has appeared.

I have absolutely no animosity against Lady R whom I have never laid eyes on; but I have an absolute mistrust of anything English, particularly of any "upper class" interest in literature. I cannot use the term "aristocracy" of a lot of illiterate motor owners, whether English or other. In the main I think these people like to talk, to express sympathy, and then to waste the artist's time...

I don't want to appear in England. I have no belief in their capacity to understand anything.

They still want what I was doing in 1908...

I don't see what company I should be in, apart from your own, and if you try to do editorials as well as spend your days in Lloyds, I don't know that they will be very enlightening...

Undeterred by this tirade, Eliot pressed on with his plans for the review. On June 27 he wrote to Cobden-Sanderson:

... We [he and Lady Rothermere] both think that owing to the delays which the "Review" has suffered and the current rumours of its having been abandoned, that it is highly desirable that an announcement should appear as soon as possible... I raised with Lady Rothermere the question of the title and brought out the points upon which you and I agreed that "London Review" was a weak name.

We have finally decided upon *The Criterion*, a title suggested by my wife...

Ezra Pound had apparently moderated his position. Eliot wrote to him on July 9:

Caro Ezra, The title of the Review is *The Criterion*. This title was suggested by Vivien... I had never heard that you had conceived of this title for yours.

Do you recommend anybody in France for the *Criterion*? Also, have you come across anyone who is all informed about Scandinavia? I am not anxious to get many French people for the first two numbers, more anxious to get other (foreign) nationalities: the French business is so usual (in London) that it doesn't raise a quiver; the only name worth getting is Proust, whom I am fishing for...

His letters show that among those he was also "fishing for" in 1922 were Paul Valéry, Hermann Hesse, Virginia Woolf and André Gide. F.S. Flim and George Sainsbury. Typical of his approaches is that to Hesse, translated from the French:

March 13, 1922

Dear Sir, During a recent visit to Switzerland, I came across your book *Black Ins Chaos*, which filled me with admiration... I am sure that you must have many other equally important writings, that I should very much like to be the first to present to the British public. I find in your *Black Ins Chaos* a seriousness the like of which has not yet occurred in England, and I am keen to spread the reputation of the book.

Eliot was also receiving help from the poet, novelist and literary journalist Richard Aldington, to whom he wrote on July 13:

The first number will appear either the first or the fifteenth of October, so that you can arrange for publication in America any time after the middle of that month. I do not want you to think that I do not value your article or that I am excessively capricious about contributions! If I should seem so you will realise that it is because the success of this review, at least from the point of view of its contents, if not from that of circulation, means a very serious stake to me. You know that I have no persecution mania, but that I am quite aware how obnoxious I am to perhaps the larger part of the literary world of London and that there will be a great many jacksals swarming about waiting for my bones. If this falls flat I shall not only have gained nothing but will have lost immensely in prestige and usefulness and shall have to retire to obscurity or Paris like Ezra...

Aldington was not best pleased by Eliot's criticism of the article he had submitted. On July 19, Eliot wrote to Pound:

I have just had a little difficulty with Richard over an article he contributed and which I ventured to criticise mildly (at his request) and which he immediately sent to the *XIXth Century* without asking permission. As he has not proposed to send me anything else to take its place I am annoyed. He improved the occasion to (1) improve me for "expressing contempt (in the *Dial*) for eminent writers in language so defective" (2) say that the *Criterion* is a very dangerous title and "somewhat pretentious": "I wonder" he says "if you quite understand the profound English repulsion for everything which seems to be assuming superiority? It is a very subtle thing." (3) says that everyone says that I am getting bitter and hypercritical...

His aims for the magazine were spelled out in a letter on July 21 to the German scholar and critic E.R. Curtius:

In general it will consist of a small number of critical and reflective essays and an occasional poem or story... its great aim is to raise the standard of thought and writing in this country by both international and historical comparison. Among English writers I am combining those of the older generation who have any vitality and enterprise, with the more serious of the younger generation, no matter how advanced, for instance Mr Wyndham Lewis and Mr Ezra Pound...

His long poem *The Waste Land* was about to be published in America, both by the *Dial* and as a book. Eliot naturally wanted it to feature in the first issue of his own magazine.

August 31, 1922

Dear Cobden-Sanderson... I find that the original estimate with which your printers provided you gives the cost of 600 copies of 96 pages as £59/2s, and the cost of 600 copies of 128 pages as £75/2s/6d. I therefore assume that 600 copies of 112 pages would cost around £67.

I enclose the rest of *The Waste Land* again, and would be grateful if you would find out from the printers (1) the cost of extra sixteen pages (2) estimate of space the rest of *Waste Land* needs. If there were in the end a few pages over I suppose they could be left blank as fly-leaves.

October 16, 1922

Dear Cobden-Sanderson... We will stick to the ninety-six pages, and leave out Parts III IV and V of *The Waste Land*, if the printer's estimate... leaves room for title and note about contributions etc and a note stating that the Dostoevsky will come out in a book...

October 16, 1922

Dear Sanderson... The appearance of the paper is all that I could have desired: it is a model. I hope that the appearance and a few favourable notices will double the subscriptions!

Lady Rothermere, however, was less happy. Eliot wrote to Pound on November 3: ... Lady Rothermere has been

getting increasingly offensive ever since the *Criterion* came out, and especially since she entered her retreat for maniacs [Gurdjieff's Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man at Fontainebleau]. I wish you could see her before she leaves Paris and tell her bluntly that the *Criterion* is a SUCCESS. Nearly all the copies are sold (600 printed). But this woman will shipwreck it...

Vivien's idea is to get the money somehow and buy the paper from her — before she has time or opportunity to make my position such that I must throw it up, on her hands. V thinks she would take £500 for it now... If you and I could get the *Criterion* into our own hands and could only find the money to run it for a couple of years, it would be the thing of our lives...

November 7, 1922

Cher Ezra... She objects (1) to the whole getup and printing of the paper without specifying anything good about it, and I have with difficulty persuaded the publisher not to throw it all up at once... also her only comment on the contents is that it is Dull and that Sainsbury is bad.

I will... suggest to Lady R that she should secure a story from Katherine Mansfield [who was also at Gurdjieff's institute]... I myself should much prefer to have something from Murry; he is at least in every way preferable to his wife. The latter is not by any means the most intelligent woman Lady R has ever met. She is simply one of the most persistent and thickskinned toadies and one of the vulgarst women Lady R has ever met and is also a sentimental crank... Only thing is to congratulate her on the review as if ignorant of what I have told you, to counteract influence of K.M. who has presumably told [her] that it is bad.

Despite this inauspicious beginning, the *Criterion* went on to become a highly respected journal. Eliot remained editor until 1939, when it closed because of, as he put it, "a depression of spirits" brought about by "the present state of public affairs".

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Extracted from *The Letters of T.S. Eliot Volume I 1898-1922*, edited by Valerie Eliot and published by Faber and Faber on September 26 (£25).

TOMORROW

The poet's view of wartime London

The publishers of the letters are offering Times readers in the UK a voucher worth £3, limited to one voucher per book purchased. Details will appear with tomorrow's concluding extract.

"I am getting on nicely in my work at the bank and I like it."

T.S. Eliot. 1917

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BOOKS

Malcolm Bradbury reviews an Amis comedy of sex that reintroduces two well-loved characters

In *Difficulties With Girls* Kingsley Amis takes two notable characters from his early middle work and treats them and their continuing story in the manner of the later work — in the funny-grouchy, half misogynistic and half compassionate spirit of *Stanley and the Women* or *The Old Devils*. The two characters are Patrick Standish and Jenny Bunn, the hero, or rather anti-hero, and the heroine of *Take A Girl Like You*, which will surely stand as one of Amis's finest and best judged novels.

Patrick is Amis's version of the Regency rake and libertine, exploring the lust and the lechery that God or his natural maleness gave him, along with an instinctive arrogance and a typical Amis rage in the face of things and people who are ungod. Jenny is his natural adversary and teacher, the nice, ordinary northern girl of simple tastes whose innocent moral strength makes her one of Amis's finest female characters. In this earlier book Patrick succeeds in seducing Jenny by a near-rape. She in turn points him towards repentance through her moral character. Between them they become two ideal representatives of the world of manners and morals in its shift from the 1930s to the 1960s. This explains much of the force of the book, and its place in modern fiction.

Now the two are eight years married and it is the middle 1960s. A new spirit of sexual liberation is showing on the horizon, and homosexual relations between consenting males are just ceasing to be an offence. Ideas of sexual freedom are not, of course, novel to Patrick, though his impulses seem somewhat muted. But he does have Jenny at his side, an intimate and instinctive interpreter of all his tricks and subterfuges. Patrick has now left school-teaching, and has become a publisher in a small London house, where a trendy bereft-wearing whizz-kid runs the show, publishing dreadful poets and the works of Mabuse, a convenient cross between Marcuse and McLuhan. So publishers' meetings and lunches and literary parties form one main setting of the book, and offer Amis excellent if familiar opportunities for displaying the uniform awfulness of contemporary literary figures.

Jenny has miscarried, and seems incapable of conceiving. She works part-time teaching in a children's hospital. But she is mostly concerned with home-making in the new block of flats in South London where the Standishes have just settled, and where she tries to make a decent life, while keeping a sharp weather eye open for the many sexual temptations that cross Patrick's path. This is a world where predator females wander freely, and despite a certain subdued



GLYN BOYD HART

Amis's novels — that he has "difficulties with girls", and so he must have homosexual inclinations. Other characters, mostly of the minor kind, have similar difficulties generally, illustrating the Amis vision that all human sexual contact seems based on the most improbable materials and very closely resembles mutual loathing.

The book gets off to a slow start, but it expands into a considerable moral dignity, largely guided by the healthy weight of Jenny Standish. It is one of the problems of the later and grimmer Amis that the characters, situations, and settings — the boring Welsh writer, the local hostility that is being hideously modernized, and so on — tend to take on a very conventional, repetitious quality, though familiarity generally breeds a kind of affection.

What Amis does have is the novelist's power to deepen and complicate characters whose initial conception often seems remarkably thin. Characters are set up for rapid comic dismissal, yet they can often take on a much deeper nature — like the elderly Irish female novelist who actually does perform a remarkable act of honest virtue in this particular book.

For critics to come, the comparison between *Take A Girl Like You* and *Difficulties With Girls* will doubtless prove interesting material for studying what became of Amis. In some ways the later book is thinner gruel, for where the earlier one takes on the exploration of the entire manners of an age, this one is made up of fleeting and fragmentary elements. In the earlier book, Jenny and Patrick were remarkable characters, she with her roots in a northern upbringing and in the sentimental clichés of popular culture, he with his rakehell ways but also his terrible intimations of pain and mortality.

In the new book, these qualities seem rather perfunctory, and Jenny and Patrick now join the great gallery of troubled middle-aged Amis couples who are trying for just a little decency in a world where human love seems to have little to be said for it. The values and prejudices that Amis once used to explore through discovering, and vital characters is now a kind of total, inclusive environment in which they all live. Like Patrick himself, the book is decidedly more muted, and is funny in a fainter and more familiar way. But the gradually deepening texture, which opens to deep feeling beneath the comic surface, justifies it all. If we ask whether Amis was wise or right to bring back two of his best characters, the answer has to be a firm and grateful yes.

Hearts growing older

DIFFICULTIES WITH GIRLS
By Kingsley Amis
Hutchinson, £11.95

quality in Patrick, he is as alert as ever to the paradoxical juxtaposition of the off-putting female voice and the obsessively interesting female breast.

The main preoccupation of the book, however, is with living together, and the whole strange comedy of sexual relationships: why do we do it, how do we betray it, how can we bear it, why do we keep on seeming to need it? This is

Jenny's problem with Patrick and also the problem of the various neighbours they find in the block. Along the corridor is the homosexual "marriage" of Eric and

Stevie, who fight endlessly as Stevie exercises his jealous "femininity", but who somehow cannot stop living together. It is also the problem of the eccentric Tim Valentine, who suffers from an unfortunate problem of promiscuity in his heterosexual relationships and has been persuaded by a Harley Street psychologist — who can be guaranteed to do no good in any of

Beneath the glaze

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Philip Howard

UTZ
By Bruce Chatwin
Cape, £9.95

the indirections and misapprehensions of a young English historian, who first meets him in the year before the Soviet tanks roll up to stamp out the Prague spring. Like all human beings, Utz is not porcelain, more like an onion, with many layers revealing surprises as they are accidentally peeled off.

This is a thin vol., with big bold print and wide margins on 150 small, creamy pages, as delicate as a porcelain figurine. On the surface, as you start reading, it seems as though it is going to turn out to be a whimsical little parable. But beneath the brilliant glaze, there is considerably more going on than meets the unmyopic or fleeting eye.

It starts with a lonely funeral in Prague, the melancholy city of survival where nothing is quite what it seems. Kaspar Utz is the stiff protagonist at the botched ceremony. He appears to have been a reclusive man, a quarter Jewish, who has survived Hitler and Stalin and the grey totalitarianism of modern Czechoslovakia by opting out into his private collection of 18th-century figurines, all daintily clothed and coloured — Columbine and Harlequin, ladies of the Court, Tartars and Chinese sages — are banked six deep around the walls of his otherwise shabby little flat. He is in the grip of monumental *Porzellankrankheit*, the overpowering, obsessive collector's mania for porcelain.

Utz's apparently bloodless life is gradually uncovered, mainly by

Can we even be sure whether he has a monstrosity? There are fleeting and improbable intimations of the sly trickster Harlequin about the dull old dog.

As we unwrap him we meet intelligence and sensitivity, unexpected intimations from Kafka to Jung, and assorted symbolic and historical lore about porcelain — and life. The legendary Rabbi Loew who blasphemed against the Creator by making a Golem or clay mannikin shaped like a gentle, whom he brought to life as his servant. Much about Augustus of Saxony, and the invention of porcelain, and Dresden where there is no porcelain left today. And why do you suppose that Nebuchadnezzar had the burning fiery furnace heated to seven times its normal temperature when he tried to fire the unfortunate Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

With so much priceless porcelain around, you will not be too surprised when the book ends not with a whimper but a series of crashes. But how and why and it will make you jump. This shiny little novel is not just about pretty little porcelain figurines, but about dirty great issues of life and creativity.

Through the looking specs



The professor of France and life

Tim Heald

SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO
Autobiographical Sketches
By Richard Cobb
John Murray, £12.95

"I have not changed very much," writes Professor Cobb, regarding the photograph of himself blackberrying in a heavy mackintosh and a black trilby purchased earlier that year, 1939, in the Boulevard Saint-Germain. He looks thin as a stick, peering out from behind heavy round spectacles, and he seems to be saying something to an unseen third party who could be Nancy or Brigid or Jim, "a large man in a blazer", who is recovering from rheumatic fever.

"I am merely 49 years older," he continues, as if the mere passage of time could scarcely be expected to effect meaningful alterations any more than a CBE and the Oxford Chair of History, marriage, children, and above all the strange cultish fame he now enjoys, and which derives not so much from his professional achievements as from his late-flowering autobiographies, of which this is one.

Fans of *Still Life* will be glad to know that there is a return to Tunbridge Wells, though not to the Limbury-Buses but to the Papes up the hill in Perry House. We are also taken to Colchester to his grandparents' house in the Hythe, "larger than the brick house occupied by the manager of the gasworks". Here we meet Uncle Primus, photographed on a regular constitutional on Clacton Pier, trousers worn high above the

ankle and flapping. A family trait. Primus died of senile dementia in Severall's Hospital. "It was," we are told, "the only time, apart from a year up the Amazon, that he had been away from home."

Other uncles and aunts gad about more than Primus, none more than Vernon, the doctor who used to witness the hangings at Lancaster Gaol and seems to have enjoyed describing them, especially the smell. He became fashionable, unlike his brother Jack, a serious drinking man who liked to take Richard on his rounds and describe each consultation so that the young nephew felt like "a GP at one remove". Professor Cobb enjoyed his uncles.

"The relationship between an uncle and a nephew is generally an easy, relaxed one, if only because it is intermittent, muffled figure blackberrying in his early twenties really is almost indistinguishable from the elderly gentleman who may now be found walking quietly in the woods at Wytham. The memory, however, does occasionally fail. "Zones d'ombre", he tells us, are inevitable, especially when looking back on your childhood from your 70s. Besides he thinks he was probably always shaky on dates.

In any case life seen through those thick round glasses can never have seemed quite as it seemed to anyone else. Nor can many people have recorded such idiosyncratic perceptions with quite such discursive, quirky, and altogether seductive charm. Like its predecessors this can be an exasperating book at times, but wholly original, beautifully written, and ultimately quite irresistible.

Metaphors of destruction

FICTION

Gillian Greenwood

GRACE

By Maggie Gee

Heinemann, £10.95

VIEW OF DAWN IN THE TROPICS

By G. Cabrera Infante

Translated by Suzanne Gill

Revine

Faber, £10.95

THE WHITE SOLITAIRE

By Elizabeth Mavor

Hutchinson, £11.95

Just a few years ago a 78-year-old woman who protested vociferously against the Sizewell nuclear power reactor was murdered. The mystery surrounding the bitter end of Hilda Murrell is the inspiration for Maggie Gee's excellent new novel, *Grace*, in which a writer, Paula, attempts both an exploration and an explanation.

The book is in fact the story of Paula and her elderly aunt Grace who is substituted for Hilda Murrell. Grace must face her childless past and her guilt over a lover's death. Paula must resolve her confusion towards her lover, Arthur, and his child. Both Grace and Paula are protesters in a minor way. Paula still counts the trains that carry nuclear waste along the track at the end of her London garden. A particularly unpleasant aspect of the British security forces imposes upon their lives (and possible deaths), a danger even closer at hand than the fall-out from Chernobyl.

Grace works both as a compelling thriller and as a complex series of metaphors, constructed with great skill and delicacy, on the destruction of a myth, a family, a society, and possibly a planet. Its portrait of Britain beset by moral and physical decay is alarming and familiar.

Reading through G. Cabrera Infante's new work, *View of Dawn in the Tropics*, is akin to unearthing a box of old photographs and grisly souvenirs. It is a collection of images, moments, anecdotes, and chilling moral tales that together form a history of Cuban struggle, a black and ironic portrait of oppression and uprising on "that sad unhappy island".

The chronology runs from the Indian conflict with the Spanish through to Castro's regime, which Cabrera Infante left in an atmosphere of mutual disenchantment in 1966. An ignorance of no hindrance to an absorption of Cabrera Infante's belief that one man's myth is another man's prison. He sets out to illustrate his point with a catalogue of horror perpetrated by a succession of liberators turned tyrant.

Cabrera Infante sometimes literally uses photographs as a starting point for a narrative. In

one such case a man has been cropped out of a picture simply because the photographer could not identify him. The man is later accused of treachery and becomes a non-person. The narrator praises the foresight of the photographer: "That's what you call historical guesswork."

On reading an 18th-century account of the life of Mary Read (probably by Defoe) which is printed as a foreword to Elizabeth Mavor's *The White Solitaire*, questions immediately raise themselves. How did this woman who lived much of her short life as a man, conceal her identity in her life as a sailor and soldier turned pirate? What sort of creature was she? Elizabeth Mavor has attempted an interesting answer in a fictional account of Read's life, based upon the few facts known.

The book is written as a narrative interspersed with a journal written by the fictional Read. The journal is straight 18th-century pastiche, and works well while the narrative and dialogue lurch about rather inconsistently in and out of period, but nonetheless lending the tone a certain historical flavour. *The White Solitaire*'s success lies in its fascinating depiction of the life of a sailor and pirate, and a convincing account of the physical survival of Mary Read in a harsh male world of war and sea battles. Read slips in and out of her male/female identities, only slowly conscious herself of a profound confusion as to her own nature and sexual preferences.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

A Local Habitation, by Richard Hoggart (Chatto & Windus, £13.95) Life and times, 1918-40, of Leeds boy who found the uses of literacy.
Adam, Eve & the Serpent, by Elaine Pagels (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95) Slow growth of the Christian notion of the bondage of original sin.
Charles Edward Stuart, by Frank McLynn (Routledge, £24.95) The tragedy of Bonnie Prince Charlie on the 20th anniversary of his death.
Country Matters, by Duff Hart-Davis (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95) Not Hamlet's sense, but pretty pieces by *Indie's* green-wellied star.
Erewhons of the Eye, by Elinor Shaffer (Reaction Books, £21.50) Samuel Butler seen unusually as painter, photographer, & art critic.
Figures in a Landscape, by John Gaze (Barrie & Jenkins, £18) Insider's history of the blessed National Trust by its late Chief Agent.
Sporting Art in Eighteenth-Century England, by Stephen Deuchar (Yale, £24.95) A social and political history of the typically English genre by the curator of pictures at the National Maritime Museum, Armada man.
The Fitzrovia, by Hugh David (Michael Joseph, £15.95) A portrait of London's Bohemian class, named for the naughty Fitzroy Tavern, 1900-55.
The Myth of Ritual Murder, by R. Po-chia Hsia (Yale, £20) Jews and magic in Reformation Germany from rare, hair-raising primary sources.
The Real Charles, by Alan Hamilton (Collins, £10.95) Entertaining and acute 40th-birthday analysis of the P.O.W. by our man in court breaches.

Skulduggery of punters from the horse's mouth

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

THE EDGE
By Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £11.95



Champion jock of horse crime

The last few annual offerings from Dick Francis hinted at declining mastery of a genre he had created and, for a quarter century, dominated. Compared with his earlier work, late Francis demonstrated thinness of plot, poverty of characterization, and carelessness of writing. It is pleasing to report that *The Edge* has the champion back on form. It is not, perhaps, vintage Francis, but an absorbing, exciting, and satisfying read.

The main action takes place on a luxury train taking rich race-horse owners and punters across Canada, stopping at race meetings in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver on the way. On board is the sinister Julius Apollo Filmer, whom the English Jockey Club have been investigating for years. Filmer has a habit of persuading owners to sell him top-class horses that they have previously adamantly refused to part with. They never revealed the reasons for their change of mind, but one of them killed himself.

Also on the train, disguised as a waiter, is undercover investigator Torquil Kelsey, a well-off mistit whose talents have found a home with the Jockey Club's security

service. As entertainment over the long journey a troupe of actors performs a fictional mystery, which merges with the real one: there is much skulduggery aimed at horses, humans, and the train

itself; and Filmer conjures up one of his surprise purchases.

It is hardly necessary to say that Francis handles his horse and racing lore with total command. In addition, Kelsey is a less bruised, more believable and attractive hero than many in recent Francis novels. The tension is constant, the action frequent, and the obligatory bits of Canadian exotica do not interfere.

John Francombe, another champion steeplechase jockey turned author, is clearly hoping to succeed to the Francis literary mantle. *Declared Dead* (Headline, £10.95) his third equine thriller, co-written with James MacGregor, in real life a London libel lawyer, has the requisite ingredients: fraud and homicide in the racing game, involving an attractive woman jockey in difficulties with a nasty husband, crooked bookies, naughty stewards, and disappearing stable lads.

The racing feel is authentic, and it's a pacy, entertaining read, but the authors need to live up the somewhat stilted dialogue and description to begin to compete with the Old Master.

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

GETTING AND SPENDING

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Major, and his opposite numbers in the spending departments are now about two and a half weeks into their annual discussions on public spending. The negotiations are not proving easy. Inflation is set to rise well above the 4 per cent level originally forecast for the end of this year. Social security costs will consequently be several hundred million pounds higher and upward pressure on the public sector pay bill is rising.

There are already strong political pressures for a big increase in spending on the National Health Service, for some clear recognition of the crucial role which education must play in future prosperity and for higher spending on law and order. The July agreement to add to provision for local authority spending must be added to the nurses' pay settlement, the compromise on the European budget and concessions on social security.

Together they have reduced much of the flexibility which was built into the totals agreed in last year's survey. Although the Government's budget surplus is turning out much higher than forecast, interest rates are turning out higher too. This will add to debt interest.

Faced with this there will be a strong temptation to the Government to lower its sights for controlling public spending. The let-out clause has already been set in place to enable the Government to do this. The Cabinet agreed in July to hold spending "as close as possible" to the previously agreed planning totals, not to hold to them precisely. Last year, under a similar form of words, spending totals were eventually increased by £2.5 billion in 1988-89 and £5.5 billion in 1989-90.

The likelihood is that the totals for 1989-90 and 1990-91 will again have to be increased this year. But ministers should not dismiss a more ambitious target as politically or practically impossible. Achieving savings in programmes at relatively short notice is always difficult and sometimes inefficient. But if he cannot hold the totals this time Mr Major should be persuading his colleagues to set in place the machinery for big savings later.

There are several programmes where savings are available. Mrs Thatcher never loses an opportunity to draw attention to the defects of

the Common Agricultural Policy, but there are also large domestic farm subsidies and services to the farming community which are directly under the control of the Government. Overall, state aid to agriculture proportionate to its contribution to the national economy is now 17 times that provided to manufacturing.

Law and order may be a priority programme but the objective can be delivered in different ways. The Government's chief solution to prison overcrowding is to build new prisons, a charge on public spending which grows larger every year. More emphasis could be placed on reducing the number of custodial sentences, in which Britain is the European leader. Examining spending from a regional perspective the State's outlays in Scotland are higher than in England and Wales on practically every conceivable unit measure. This is because the block grant formula (which is supposed to equalize spending north of the border with levels prevailing south) was put in place when spending in Scotland was particularly high at the time of the devolution debate. The Government should consider an adjustment in that formula.

For the rest, there are enormous, if elusive, sums to be released through achieving greater value for money. Report after report from the Public Accounts Committee shows, for instance, that the Ministry of Defence is not achieving as big a "bang for the buck" as it should be. Improvements are said to be under way. They need to be large.

In the health service, too, there is evidently scope for saving large sums of money if the performance of the least effective hospitals and the least efficient health regions can be brought up to the standard of the best. The same is true of local education authorities where, even when differing circumstances are fully taken into account, outcomes vary enormously.

Whether ministers should use money saved to spend more on the health service or to cut taxes is a separate question, and the sort of problem which will not be welcome. The first thing is to release the additional resources still locked up in the public sector. The Government should be wary of the attitude that there are no more savings to be found.

LORDS TEST FOR LABOUR

Mr Roy Hattersley's declaration this week of Labour's commitment to abolish the House of Lords will be instant music to the ears of the party which he expects will shortly re-elect him to its deputy leadership. Nothing is better calculated to arouse the anger of the traditional left than a reminder of the continued existence of a second chamber which, alongside the life peers, still allows the hereditary principle.

The peers of the grousemoors still loom large in Labour demonology. They are a conventional feature of the rhetoric Labour employs whenever the Lords leave undone anything Labour thinks they ought to have done (such as emasculating the poll tax) or are thought even to contemplate doing something they ought not to do by any significant amendment of Labour legislation.

A closer examination of Mr Hattersley's words, however, may not be entirely pleasurable to most Labour activists. For having, in the approved manner, described the hereditary principle as offensive, and the appointment of life peers by prime ministerial patronage as inadequate, he left it open whether the House of Lords should be abolished altogether, with no replacement, or whether there should be a reformed upper chamber on a different basis.

What is more, he even seemed to indicate that the Labour working committee on the subject which he is to chair will approach that question more or less pragmatically. That is not what Labour has always wanted. Traditionally, it has been a unicameralist party wanting no second chamber of any sort which could revise, amend or delay anything that a Labour government with a sweeping majority might wish to enact.

It has by and large been Labour's opposition to reform which has stood in the way of an agreed all-party solution to the reform of the Upper House ever since the war. The Conservatives (Lord Home's Review Com-

mittee in 1978 most notably) have been most active in producing schemes for a reformed second chamber, perceiving correctly that the more the House of Lords lacked credibility by virtue of its composition, the greater the risk of its abolition and a consequently unfettered elective dictatorship of the Commons.

Only in 1968-69 did a Labour government venture to tackle the problem, when the late Richard Crossman brought in a Bill for Lords' reform based on a bargain between the two front-benches. This faced protracted resistance from the Labour left (who did not want a second chamber of any sort) allied with Conservative traditionalist objectors, Mr Enoch Powell and Mr Michael Foot, fighting in the same cause for opposite reasons.

The outcome was that the Wilson Government withdrew the Bill. During Labour's leftwards swing in the late seventies and early eighties its conference commitment to total abolition became unequivocal.

In the 1983 general election under Mr Foot Labour offered a manifesto commitment to total abolition; an alternative reformed chamber was repudiated. In 1987, however, abolition was dropped, allegedly for lack of time. "I would like to do it but I don't think it's going to be on," said Mr Kinnock on television. At the next election it will clearly be back again, but will it be for total abolition or replacement?

Mr Hattersley's instincts as a long-time unicameralist are, like Mr Kinnock's, for total abolition. But his head is apparently beginning to resist his heart on the matter.

Labour has long preferred an Upper House that it can ridicule and then abolish, hoping for a Commons majority free of all constitutional constraints. That, however, is not in the public interest. The attitude to Lords' reform will be an important test not only of the genuineness of Labour's revisionism but of its claim to democratic credentials.

STRENGTH IN RESERVE

The campaign which was launched yesterday in support of this country's reserve forces must be seen against one of NATO's most intractable problems — the very different demands of war and peace. Divided by the Atlantic and preoccupied by competing economic priorities, the Western democracies rely heavily on the rapid mobilization of reserves on the outbreak of war — or, preferably, some days before it. In the event of a European war, the Alliance now looks to its reserves to provide about half of its troops on the central front.

Approximately one-third of the British Army on mobilization would consist of part-time soldiers of one kind or another. Those proportions are much higher in certain areas — around 80 per cent for medical units for instance. The other two services are also to some extent dependent on reserves. About 60 per cent of the minesweeping work around British coasts would be carried out by the Royal Naval Reserve, while the Royal Auxiliary Air Force would be responsible for the defence of 40 per cent of the strategic airfields in this country.

The problem of recruiting volunteer reserves in peacetime, however, is equalled only by the difficulty in retaining them. The Territorial Army has a present establishment of 86,000 and is gradually expanding to a target of 90,000, but its actual strength now is only 76,000. Even if it succeeds in finding enough recruits to plug the gaps, its 30 per cent annual turnover suggests that by no means all will stay. An improvement in the retention rate is a very important consideration in the cost-effective way to increase manpower.

It was this reasoning which prompted the Prime Minister two years ago to set up the

National Employer Liaison Committee (NELC). Although family pressures and personal whim account for the premature resignation of many volunteers, the most significant single reason is held to be the lack of enthusiasm among employers. The number of Britain's captains of industry who have served in the forces themselves has dwindled in recent years. The bonds which once existed between the modern TA and those who served in it during the Second World War have been loosened.

Yet the same employer who would view with some scepticism the weekend military exploits of his "Under Manager (Sales)" might happily pay some exorbitant fee to instil in his staff qualities of leadership and decision making. To some extent, the services can provide such training free. On that reasoning, companies should encourage military training for their staff.

Dependence upon reserves is not confined to the West. The Warsaw Pact armies would more than double in size on mobilization. Like most of the NATO allies, however, they have a large ready-made contingent of ex-regulars who retain a reserve commitment on leaving the colours. Britain, with relatively small forces, has to rely heavily on volunteers to make up numbers.

With defence budgets coming under increasing pressure, the more use one can make of reserve forces, the better. The TA for instance, while about half the size of the regular Army in peacetime, keeps going on only 5 per cent of the budget. The Prime Minister's personal backing for the present initiative is therefore to be welcomed.

Disputed use of TV frequencies

From the Director of Engineering, Independent Broadcasting Authority

Sir, Dr Tom Margerison (September 17) correctly identifies the very important future role for broadcasting of a more local character. However, the large transmission stations which he suggests could be replaced by many local stations are the most efficient users of the radio spectrum and the more efficient in terms of operating costs.

A large transmitting station with a wide coverage area brings television to those it serves for a cost counted in pence per household per year, while for a small relay station serving a local community the cost can be 100 times this figure.

Although our utilisation of the frequencies presently available to television is highly efficient, we are examining ways in which this may be further improved. Each of the 44 frequency channels allocated to television in the Stockholm Plan of 1961 is re-used on average some 80 times in widely-separated geographical areas.

Replacing the large stations by many small ones would lead to reduced efficiency in the use of the spectrum. One wonders too if a substantial increase in the number of transmitting masts around the country would be environmentally acceptable.

Clearly though, a way forward to allow the development of the more local character in television needs to be found. We are actively investigating what greater degree of local coverage can be obtained by simple reconfigurations of the existing network, by local opt-out facilities, and by using new technologies.

Multipoint video distribution systems (MVDS) also offer interesting possibilities for the future but, as Dr Margerison indicates, there are limitations which have to be addressed. It is indeed questionable whether viewers, already faced with an increasing number of "black boxes" in the home, would readily invest in yet another to receive MVDS transmissions.

We are therefore investigating MVDS techniques, using the same frequency band and receiving equipment as those for the UK direct-to-home (DBS) satellite transmissions, due to start in a year's time. In this way a more coherent and flexible approach to the evolution of broadcasting technology may be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. FORREST,
Director of Engineering,
Independent Broadcasting Authority,
Crawley Court,
Winchester, Hampshire.
September 19.

Churchyard care

From Mrs Susan Cowdy
Sir, It is good to see (report, early editions, September 15) that the Church of England has updated its warning to parochial church councils against the cult of the lawn-mower.

The Diocese of Oxford and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire "Naturalists' Trust" have just produced a leaflet on the need for wildlife conservation in Buckinghamshire churchyards, based on a botanical report on 233 church and chapel graveyards. The churchyard is often the only site left where once common "parish flowers" still survive.

Here, in the Chiltern village of The Lee, the graveyard is looked after by two understanding country people. Patches of primroses, betony, devils' bit and harebells thrive and are a haven for butterflies. Years ago these flowers grew in the surrounding meadows, but now we have no meadows.

In recent years it has become fashionable, with the removal of kerbstones, to create a billiard

Principles at stake in prison reform

From Sir Leon Radzinowicz, FBA

Sir, The Home Office Green Paper on private sector involvement in the remand system, issued at the end of July, contended that this would not raise "any over-riding difficulty of principle", providing that sensible practical safeguards are built into the system.

Complex constitutional arrangements and subtle administrative processes — all deeply embedded in the life of the nation — give form and substance to the concept of criminal justice. From it flow political, social and ethical consequences. By this I mean that in a democracy grounded on the rule of law and public accountability the enforcement of penal legislation, which includes prisoners deprived of their liberty while awaiting trial, should be the undivided responsibility of the State.

It is one thing for private companies to provide services to the prison system but it is an altogether different matter for bodies whose motivation is primarily commercial to have coercive powers over prisoners.

The experience I gained when I had the privilege to serve as a non-executive director of Securicor provided me with valuable evidence of the absolute necessity of drawing and maintaining a firm line of demarcation between the task of guarding persons and property, which can be carried out by private companies, and the task of enforcing the criminal law, which should be the function of public authorities.

The example of contracting-out which the paper regards as "particularly relevant in the present context (because it involves custodial duties)" is the custody and escorting of persons detained under the Immigration Act of 1971. To use this as a justification is to step on a slippery

slope. In any case it is, to say the least, a strained comparison with the role and responsibilities assigned to the remand system as an integral part of the criminal justice system.

Though cautious and critical, the paper draws upon recent developments of a similar nature in the United States. They have been found "of course helpful". The sooner this comparative flirtation is given up the better. The standard of the penitentiary network of America (with a very few exceptions) is the lowest of the leading countries of the world. This is a sad but incontrovertible fact.

The paper cheerfully anticipates that private contractors may be able to tap new sources of able employees at various levels and there is no reason to believe that people with the talents necessary to staff privately managed operations could not be found.

This surely is the best way to go about lowering the already low morale of the regular staff of the prison service.

Is what we are being offered a self-contained operation? Or is it but the beginning of a much more expanded approach? The paper provides no definite assurances on this, but a careful reading tends to suggest the second.

No one can deny that the English prison system is in a state of acute crisis. But in searching for new ways to overcome the grave problems of the prison system the Home Secretary should not embrace a solution which will subvert the fundamental principle that the administration of criminal justice is the business of the State.

Yours sincerely,
LEON RADZINOWICZ,
As from Trinity College,
Cambridge.
September 17.

Credit and debt

From the Director of Familybase
Sir, There is concern in your columns (leader, September 8) about relying on interest rates as the only means of restraining a consumer-led boom. Many feel that traditional measures to control consumer spending still have a role in the economic armoury. There are also moral arguments in favour of legal constraints on consumer borrowing.

Consumer debt breaks up families. In our small but detailed survey of people in debt, published in January this year, 25 per cent of those married said that their marriages had broken up as a result of debt, and another 25 per cent said their marriages would have broken up if they had not received timely professional money advice. One factor in the breakdown of family life in Britain appears to be the growth of consumer credit!

However good credit scoring techniques become, they will never predict the incidence of debt accurately. We found that in the majority of cases debt arises, not from the carelessness of the borrower, but owing to some unforeseen event such as a pregnancy or a redundancy. The only way for a family to guard against debt effectively is to have savings against a rainy day.

What, then, is the morality of advertising which tries to persuade people to use credit? Surely in the interests of individual and family well-being we should discourage borrowing as we used to, through such means as controls on bank lending and minimum deposit requirements on consumer durables.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCHLUTER,
Director, Familybase,
Jubilee House,
3 Hooper Street, Cambridge.
September 14.

Tories in Europe

From Mr Christopher M. Jackson (MEP for Kent East (Conservative))

Sir, You report (September 17) that Conservative members in Strasbourg have been "ordered" by the Prime Minister to put Britain first and promote Thatcherite policies. That David Waddington, MP, the Chief Whip, had been sent to Strasbourg "to give a dressing down to 45 British MEPs". As a member of the bureau of our parliamentary party I can tell you these assertions are untrue.

We appreciated David Waddington taking time during the recess to visit Strasbourg, as our gypsy life does not make it easy for MEPs to maintain the contact we would wish with Westminster. The visit was a great success.

It is true that the Single European Act gives us a greater say in the all-important legislation for 1992, and the narrow majority of the centre-right gives especial importance to next year's elections for the European Parliament.

The key to it is obtaining a Europe-wide majority to fend off mistaken socialist nostrums, and continue our work of ensuring that new EEC legislation reflects the Thatcherite principles which are bringing Britain such great benefit. "Orders", indeed! Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
8 Wellmead Drive,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
September 17.

Stung into action

From Mr Peter Brasier
Sir, Dr Thomas Sutcliffe (Medical Briefing, September 15) refers to a sting from a weaver fish but does not mention the treatment for this extremely painful condition demonstrated for me several years ago in Guernsey by the St John's Ambulance Centre.

The treatment consisted of placing the affected part in a bowl of very hot water and repeating as necessary. Within seconds the pain decreased and within minutes I was left with a dull ache and a sore toe but no other ill effects. I still have a small scar and the memory of the agonising pain.

Weaver fish stings appear to be rare. Those who do get stung may be grateful for the knowledge of a very simple and successful treatment.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BRASIER,
26 Chalkhill Road,
Needham Market,
Ipswich,
Suffolk.
September 15.

Keeping heart of Covent Garden

From Mr Joss Ackland and others
Sir, Although sympathetic to the Royal Opera House's need to improve its premises, we have supported the Covent Garden Community Association's legal challenge, now in the Court of Appeal, to the proposed Opera House development plan.

This plan will tear the fabric of the conservation area of Covent Garden by destroying 13 historic buildings, all but one facade of the listed Floral Hall and by building 225,000 sq ft of offices and shops, a car park for 300 vehicles and improvements to the Opera House.

This destruction might be excused if the scheme provided an opera house of world class which will satisfy the technical and artistic requirements of the next century. This it fails to do.

The expert opinions of the Theatres Trust and the Association of British Theatre Technicians are that many of the proposed improvements are inadequate. This scheme has less dead storage space than the condemned Floral Hall provided and gives the public only 13 extra seats. It surrounds the Opera House with offices and allows no room for future expansion.

The Royal Opera House does not intend to start work on its improvements until 1993. There is ample time to find alternative means of funding the work other than by building office blocks.

The House of Lords has recently studied Lord Birkenhead's proposal for an arts lottery and the Home Office is currently considering the implications. Sydney Opera House was built in this way and many German opera houses are similarly funded. By adopting this approach the Government has a tremendous opportunity to show its concern not only for the arts but also for England's architectural heritage.

If the community association's challenge fails — a challenge, incidentally, on legal precedents rather than the environmental aspects of the case — the Royal Opera House will be able to proceed with a scheme which provides inadequately for its own needs, causes devastation to Covent Garden and squanders the one chance of using the land adjoining the Opera House for its own use.

Alternatively the Government could exercise its powers to call in the application and hold an inquiry where all the implications could be tested and debated in public.

Yours faithfully,
JOSS ACKLAND,
DOROTHY TUTTIN,
JOCELYN HERBERT,
ALAN AYCKBOURN,
c/o Margaret Ramsay Limited,
14a Goodwins Court,
St Martins Lane, WC2.
September 20.

South Bank music

From the Chairman of the South Bank Board
Sir, We read with great interest Mr Richard Morrison's article in last Saturday's Times (September 17). He is of course quite right in saying that we are trying to raise artistic standards, and if in the process we make a few mistakes — and ruffle a few feathers — I can assure you that we never do so deliberately.

I would say that on the whole our co-operation with the principal orchestras works very smoothly, even if occasionally they find us a bit bossy; and, by the way, at least 75 per cent of what goes on in the Royal Festival Hall is not programmed by us at all but represents, as in the past, initiatives by promoters or by the orchestras themselves.

Finally, may I correct your point about the German Arts Festival last year. We had nothing whatsoever to do with its programming, nor indeed its fundraising, and it was entirely the organisers' choice to stage some of their events on the South Bank. Yours sincerely,
R. H. GRIERSON,
Executive Chairman,
South Bank Board,
Royal Festival Hall, SE1.
September 19.

Bullion fraud

From Mr H. L. Smith
Sir, I read today (report, September 14) of yet another gold bullion VAT fraud which no doubt involved extensive and costly police and customs investigation and an equally costly seven-month trial. Would not a considerable saving to Inland Revenue be made by returning gold bullion to its former VAT zero-rated status? Yours faithfully,
H. L. SMITH,
The Elms, Seisdon,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
September 14.

Older and wiser

From Dr Allan H. Briggs
Sir, I recently dined at a pretentious local hotel. When presented with an exorbitant bill for an indifferent meal, I drew the waiter's attention to a prominent notice which offered "special reductions for old age pensioners". "That, Sir", he explained disdainfully, "relates not to our charges, but to the size of the portions". We have been warned. Yours etc.,
ALLAN H. BRIGGS,
Birkendale Lodge,
Church Lane, Lincoln.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number.
(01) 782 5864.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Against the grain

Some "betray" their origins by revealing them, others by denying them. In *England's Henry Moore* (Channel 4) a Yorkshire woman, who had known the great sculptor since they were at Leeds Art School together, said how shocked she was when, just before he died, he called her "good girl" and not a "good lass".

This fascinating, critically affectionate, if peculiar, portrait, seemed to suggest that Moore betrayed his origins in both ways. His Yorkshire lower class background helped to turn him into a very hard-working down-to-earth man, who, despite his socialist sympathies, knew the value of brass, not to say bronze, which gave him a much quicker return on his labours than stone. Sir Stephen Spender revealed that he was not only happy to discuss Lenin, but was rather pleased to be Britain's highest salary-earner in the 1960s, and was "quite sympathetic" to the *English Establishment*. David Sylvester pointedly talked of those who successfully do things in England while "courting those that just lie". As he was saying this, the programme-makers tested whether we and the complaints phone operators were awake, by showing pictures of the Royal Family.

The artists interviewed hinted at a diminishing, if not quite a betrayal, of his art when the former First World War bayonet instructor who had spoken of the need to "beat and fight the stone" foresaw the intimate struggle of carving. The one artist we did not get a squeak out of, except a muffled word in a clip of him in Texas, was Moore himself, though we heard from all sorts: politicians — James Callaghan and Helmut Schmidt — a colliery worker, a British Council packer. Perhaps they feared that Moore's words would betray his image as they portrayed it.

Andrew Hislop

David Robinson applauds an independent Scandinavian first-time film-maker for his integrity and high technical skills

Saga hero's Lapp of honour

CINEMA

Pathfinder (15)
Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue

The Deceivers (15)
Odeon Haymarket

Stars and Bars (15)
Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Chelsea

Jimmy Reardon (15)
Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street

The Running Man (18)
Odeons West End, Marble Arch

Poltergeist III (15)
Empire Leicester Square

camera, and the skills of the stunt people (supplied from Britain; the ferocious bear is Scottish) are never obtrusive. We are only aware of the myth and a remote world, a millennium away, brought magically to life.

The Deceivers, an Indian-shot production by Merchant-Ivory, goes back only a century and a half, with a John Masters story about an English officer who in 1825 infiltrates the secret society of the Thuggees, disguised as an Indian (a situation that somewhat strains belief). It looks very fine, full of violent and bloody action, shot on location, with elephants and period costumes and a troop

of cavalry, to come bugling to the rescue in the nick of time.

Nevertheless the film proves the significant point that action by itself does not make for excitement and suspense. The script, by Michael Hirst, is loose and directionless, and fails ever to settle decisively on its theme: what seems to be the central notion, the metamorphosis of the mind of the decent English officer into that of a Thug, is never fully developed.

In part the fault lies with the two-dimensional performance of Pierce Brosnan. Generally the stiff colonialist actors (Helena Michell, David Robb, Keith Michell) are outshone by the ebullience of Saeed Jaffrey and a newly Falstaffian Shashi Kapoor. The workaday direction is by the American Nicholas Meyer (*Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*).

Stars and Bars would probably have been funnier if it had been made by a lot of other people. Adapting his own comic novel, William Boyd simplifies and coarsens it, without finding a visual equivalent to its essentially literary humour. The basic story remains: a naive Englishman, working for a New York art auctioneer and juggling two concurrent affairs, is despatched to Georgia to secure a Renoir from an eccentric collector. The script loses most of the point of the mutual impact of transatlantic cultures, and turns the Georgian family into *Cold Comfort Farm* caricatures.

Pat O'Connor's previous films were *Cal* and *A Mouth in the Country*, and as might be surmised from those, he shows no natural skill for comedy. Since the script tends to relay the rest of the characters for long stretches, most of the burden rests on Daniel Day Lewis. An actor of talent in other fields, in comedy he only musters three expressions: wide-eyed schoolboy charm, wild-eyed panic and a curious tic of biting back the right corner of his mouth. He also has a couple of somewhat



Polar bear? A Laplander fights a marauder (actually imported from Scotland) in Nils Gaup's *Pathfinder*

desperate slapstick nude scenes.

William Richart, as writer-director, adapted Jimmy Reardon from an autobiographical novel he wrote at 19, describing the frustrations of a youth between school and college: an economic inferior in the swanky Evanston district of Chicago, but an inveterate enthusiast for sexual experience. If the period (early Sixties) is blurred, the film still smacks of a 19-year-old's self-indulgence. The youth is played by River Phoenix, who at 17 retains the remarkable skills and intensity he revealed as a child actor.

An action vehicle for Arnold Schwarzenegger, with borrowings from *Blade Runner* and previous future-world combat fantasies,

The Running Man is not quite as dumb as it looks. Based on a novella by "Richard Bachman" — a pseudonym of Stephen King — it imagines America 30 years hence, when economic collapse and subsequent totalitarianism. Television, having for 70 years told people what to eat and what to wear, now keeps the population in total subjection by means of cheesy Government lies and propaganda.

The most popular television game show is *The Running Man*, where the contestants are political subversives, hunted to their death for the edification of a glib and sadistic audience. There are moments of genuine satire in this

combination of blood sports, Stalinist show trials, Japanese television endurance games and the bland, fake geniality of our favourite television hosts. The satire is short-lived: it ends as just another series of bouts between Arnold and all comers.

There is a feeling in *Poltergeist III* that no one is bothering any more. For the first 40 minutes there is nothing to watch and hear but dialogue and acting that would shame a 1940s B-picture horror. When we finally get to the special effects: apparitions, screaming, clutched hands, exploding or disintegrating cadavers, disappearances and transformations, there is not even a pretence of narrative logic to explain them.



Age cannot wither: Ann Miller and Mickey Rooney shine undimmed in *Sugar Babies*

Blazing away

THEATRE

Sugar Babies
Savoy

Burlesque is America's only indigenous stage form: a fact appreciated equally by its homeland's theatrical scholars and by the Broadway audiences who flocked for eight years to Ralph Allen and Harry Rigby's compilation of ancient burlesque material. If you accept the equation that junk plus time equals a cultural tradition, then this long-delayed British version, still starring the indestructible partnership of Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller, qualifies for the living artistic treasure category.

To correct any idea that burlesque consists of no more than a string of filthy jokes, Allen last week delivered a learned lecture, relating it to the honky-tonk and minstrel show, tracing its ancestry to Italian *commedia*, analysing its division between flirtation scenes (performed before a front-cloth) and body scenes, and defending it as a comic expression of national resilience unrelated to the sentimentality of Chaplin.

All very true; but when you see Rooney wandering into the lobby of the Broken Arms Hotel to learn that they are holding a Lions' Ball upstairs, or witness a blindfolded knife-thrower (the statuesque Rhoda Burchmore) unerringly transforming her target into a soprano, original prejudice asserts itself with a vengeance. It is a strange experience to watch the deluge of locker-room one-liners landing like stink-bombs on the glittering stalls of the Savoy.

There is, happily, more to the show than that. Nominally set in the mid-1920s and

built around the fiction of an American company hitting the West End, *Sugar Babies* is not an antiquarian show.

There is a calculated contrast between its merchandising interludes and front-curtain invitations to "Sample our Spuds; the jewel of old Erin", and the *Javiness* of Chris Stewart's recreation of the Rigby production. It evokes what burlesque was, so that simultaneously you can laugh with and at it.

When Burchmore ascends a plinth and beckons a flight of doves to alight on her perch-cum-rustic body stocking, the routine works perfectly, but also becomes hilarious when you realize that this was burlesque's idea of high art. The effect borders on *kitsch*, saved by the affection she brings to it.

As for the two principals, time yet again has left no mark on Rooney's fast footwork and aggressive timing, nor on Miller — first seen tearing into a tremendous railroad tap routine, squired by four hoofing guards — who remains as voluptuously undimmed as a canned peach. They come together in a knockout school scene, a black widow trial scene with Judge Rooney clambering out of the dock in paroxysms of lust, and a show-stopping song-and-dance duet where, in "Sunny Side of the Street", the glorious, hopeful spirit of American theatre came blazing out of the burlesque shell.

It was some act to follow. It was followed, and topped, by a conjuring act from Michael Davies, who juggles with his mouth as well as his hands, while keeping up a wearily dispirited commentary on his performance. The sight of an ace specialist in the comedy of defeat, simultaneously achieving breath-taking physical triumphs, is new — and irresistible. It brought the house down.

Irving Wardle

Curtain call is not a high note

The Act
Offstage Downstairs

There is a strong and regrettable chance that time may be running out for this small basement theatre, tucked under one of the best theatrical bookshops in London, midway between Camden Town and Chalk Farm. I wish I could salute Buddy Dalton's hard work here, and earlier at the New End Theatre, with an enthusiastic review of what may prove to be the last production she mounts at this venue.

It is a first play, by Richard Langridge, and one scene soars abruptly into a moment of genuinely stirring theatre. But its poorly handled theme, of Nazi versus Jew, suffers from a lack of the contemporary detail that would give it conviction and the creative imagination needed to bring it life.

The set (designer: Jane Green) has a smouldering grandeur. Windowless, rectilinear and black; a few gleams of polished metal; black walls smudged with gold; elegant but sinister, even before we hear the distant steam trains that can only be carrying one cargo in a play set in Eastern Europe in 1943.

Two men burdened with luggage are shown into the room, the taller man soberly dressed and

urbane, the scruffier one scared and endlessly asking where they are. The author spends too much time on this dramatically useless uncertainty, because nobody in the audience is in the slightest doubt that they are in the local Nazi HQ.

Snatches of Beckett-like cross talk and a frightened, crop-haired valet who says he knows nothing lend a metaphysical air to the proceedings, and sure enough, though the setting is prosaic, the subject is metaphysics.

A suave Nazi theorist wants to present an entertainment based on a small rabbinical trial in which God is found guilty of non-existence. Even if this subject was bang up to the minute in relevance, it would be thwarted by the simplistic argument the author gives to Captain Steiner (Robert French).

His two guests are cabaret artistes down on their luck and I think I need not name what race they turn out to belong to.

Damian Myerscough and Jem Wall acquit themselves worthily but it is only Paul Firth's quaking valet who opens the shutter on Nazi wickedness for us, in a short scene consisting solely of terrified replies to barked questions. Debbie Wolfe directs.

Jeremy Kingston

Cast

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| JOHN ADEWOLE | RICHARD LAWRY |
| JOHN BARRON | CIARAN MCINTYRE |
| PETER BAYLISS | MELANIE E. MARSHALL |
| BERNARD BROWN | CYRIL NRI |
| STEPHEN CARO | DOROTHY ROSS |
| RUDI DAVIES | ALEXEY SAYLE |
| FOSTER GEORGE | SEYMOUR URIAH |
| ADEN GILLET | MAX VON SYDOW |
| PETER GUINNESS | RUDOLPH WALKER |
| MAXWELL HUTCHESON | NELSON E. WARD |
| ANDREW KITCHEN | PETER WEAR |
| | LA VERNE WILLIAMS |

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Designed by RICHARD HUDSON
Lighting by DAVY CUNNINGHAM
Incidental music by CARL DAVIS

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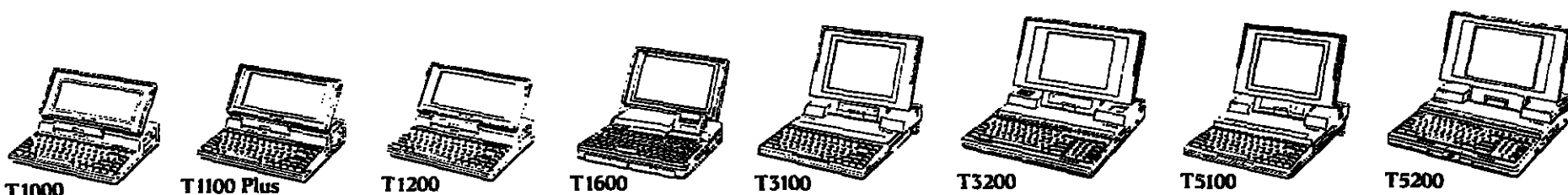


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BRUNEL SCIENCE PARK

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By Malcolm Brown

A flowering in the park

Brunel Science Park, which opened for business only two years ago, is already profitable. It will contribute £100,000 to the university next year. That is the sort of arithmetic that John Gardiner, the Laird Group chief executive and also chairman of the science park's management committee, likes.

That is not because he thinks universities are just another form of business and should be run as such. Quite the contrary. He believes that universities are about education, not business, and educationalists ought to get themselves involved in such things as science parks only if there are good educational reasons for doing so.

If there are reasons, says Mr Gardiner, who chaired Brunel University's council from 1981 to 1984, then the crucial question is whether the park can be run to produce a surplus. He takes a very simple approach to the science park's finances: A penny in the red is bad news, anything in the black is a bonus.

"Eighty per cent of the

THE STORY OF BRUNEL

■ Brunel University was founded in 1966. It is named after Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the great British engineer. The university is based at Uxbridge, 15 miles west of central London. It is four miles north of Heathrow Airport, a mile from the M40, which links London to Oxford, and four miles from the M4, which runs westward through the high-technology towns between London and Bristol collectively known as "the M4 corridor".

■ The university has 4,000 students and specializes in four-year "thin sandwich" courses, which combine academic study with

running costs of a university are 'people' costs, so if you have got a deficit in the science park it's insane - you undermine the people."

Until recently there was still quite a strong undercurrent of doubt among some academics about the park. That seems to have vanished as its strong finances have shown through.

"They were never negative", says Mr Gardiner about the academics. "They were nervous. And that was understandable enough."

As chief executive of Laird, Mr Gardiner was used to

launching big new projects and accepting that quite a lot of money had to be spent up front before the returns began to flow in. He was sure the project would work. The academics, perhaps over-conscious of his original warning that if it went wrong it would hit them directly, were not always so sanguine.

The nervousness seems to have passed. The bottom line now, says Mr Gardiner, is that the science park is a valuable capital asset which can be sold if the going gets tough. If the university ever got into finan-

periods of practical experience in industry.

■ Brunel has always had strong links with industry and a key concern when the science park was in the planning stage was that there should be an interplay between tenants and the university academics.

■ The science park is on the university campus, on a small hill overlooking the main university buildings, and connected to them by a perimeter road. The first two phases of the science park are now complete and occupied. Outline planning permission is being sought for a third phase.

cial difficulties it could simply let someone else take over the park and itself take the cash.

Mr Gardiner ought to know what he is talking about. When he became chairman of the Brunel council in 1981 the institution had a £500,000 overdraft. By the time his term of office was over, it had £5 million in the kitty.

Mr Gardiner does not always get his way. The university is seeking planning permission for a third phase of the science park and there is a good deal of pressure from academics for that third phase

to include a number of "incubator" units - premises where tiny start-up companies, often spin-offs from university-based research, establish themselves. Mr Gardiner's business sense tells him this is a rather sentimental view, verging on the financially unsound.

The best place for a start-up, he suggests, is a barn or a garage, somewhere dirt cheap. His heart is with the academics on this one. His head is not. But, ultimately, he will probably concede, "I have to bend with the wind a little, but not much," he says.

One of the important things about Brunel Science Park is that it is 100 per cent a university venture. There are no other partners. Various schemes had been considered over the years - the Greater London Council was interested and so was the big insurance company, Commercial Union - but the partners always wanted control over the tenants.

The university turned them down, says Peter Russell, the park's director. However much goodwill there was with a commercial partner at the beginning, there was always the danger of a serious clash of interests.



Science can be attractive: the building which houses General Technology Systems

The university wanted tenants who would collaborate scientifically with the university. If units became vacant and times were hard, a commercial partner would probably press to take the first company that approached it cash in hand, regardless of the company's specialization.

Eventually the university decided to go it alone with a loan from the Midland Bank. "Even though they were the university bankers," says Mr Russell, "they only got the right to lend to us by competition. Other banks were involved and gradually rates were trimmed until we got the best possible."

The science park has al-

ready filled phases one and two and is now seeking outline planning permission for a third phase. There are already more than 20 companies paying rent to the university and Mr Russell thinks the number could eventually rise to 40, though quite a few of the later ones (Mr Gardiner having bowed to his colleagues' wishes) would probably be small start-ups.

Some of the people who might move into start-up units are already on the campus. They are "camping out" in the university itself.

"Because we have a waiting list we have tenants around the campus who are ready to move in if we put up more

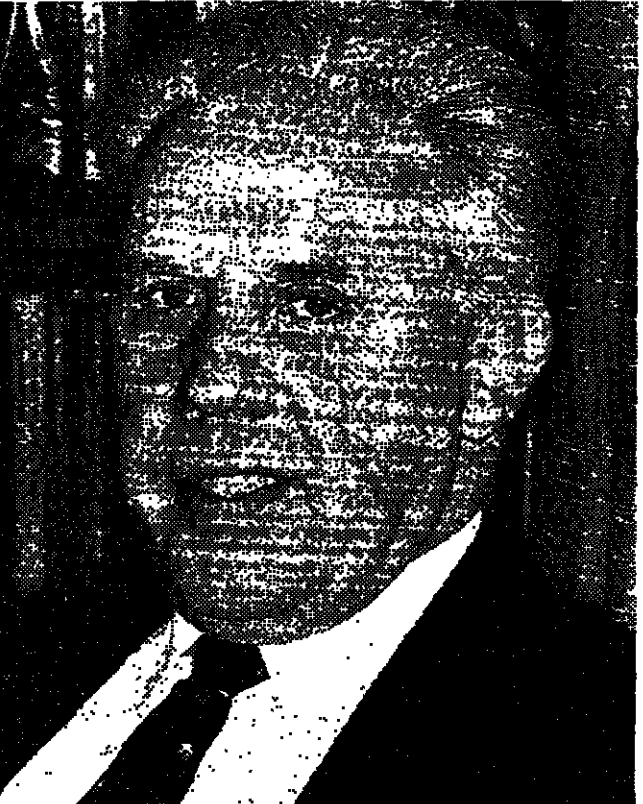
buildings," says Mr Russell. The camping-out arrangement suits some of the smaller tenants because of the relatively low costs. The university buildings are older and the "campers" may be sharing facilities, so their rents will often work out cheaper than those for the buildings on the science park proper.

The phase three plan at present envisages three buildings. Two of them would be of 8,000 sq ft, the third 4,500 sq ft, and the intention is that one of the larger buildings will contain start-up units.

Mr Russell says that some sort of accommodation will be necessary to take the pressure off the university buildings.



John Gardiner, left, management chairman: "Debts undermine people." Peter Russell, director of the park: "Waiting List."



One place for advice

One of the big problems with inventors and innovators is that they forget that having a great idea is only the first step. They think that the brilliance of their ideas will have enough momentum to carry their projects forward to a successful commercial conclusion and they are often angry and dreadfully frustrated when they get crushed.

Even the best idea will leave you penniless unless you get to grips with mundane things such as a business plan, marketing, even just protecting a product with patents.

Most banks and even special venture capital groups set up to back the riskier projects, have waste baskets full of bright ideas from men and women who simply did not know how to begin approaching the market-place.

One of the smallest organizations at Brunel Science Park is a multi-disciplinary partnership that draws together all the sorts of specialists that inventors and innovators, and even established companies, need these days.

Reg Hargrave came up with the idea of the One-Stop agency, which would provide advice on everything from patents and marketing to legal and accountancy matters when he became involved with the Hillingdon Enterprise Agency a few years ago.

"The sort of people who were coming to us were obviously after multiple advice. It seemed to me we needed to provide a multi-discipline consultancy so that people could come to one place and get all the expert advice they needed."

Every one of the partners runs another business of his own. Mr Hargrave has a trade mark and copyright consultancy; John Williams is a patent agency practice; Ged Rumak runs his own advertising, marketing and design firm; and Tony Sansom is a chartered accountant. The group can also call on the services of legal experts.

One-Stop was set up in August 1986. Mr Hargrave says the growth of the business

has perhaps been slower than he and his partners might have hoped.

It seems that the scepticism that so many people have today about professional people may sometimes be multiplied when the professionals get together under one roof. Brunel itself has provided quite a lot of business in patents, says Mr Hargrave, and the partnership would like to become better known among other universities.

The choice of Brunel as a location seemed obvious enough when the partnership was being formed. Not only was it on the threshold of the Thames Valley, where many small high-technology and particularly computer-oriented companies were setting up business, but it had tremendous communications advantages - like being just off the M4.

"It was an idea which had been spinning round in my brain for quite some years," says Mr Hargrave. "Being in the intellectual property business I had seen people come

along with good ideas of all kinds and they fell at the first hurdle."

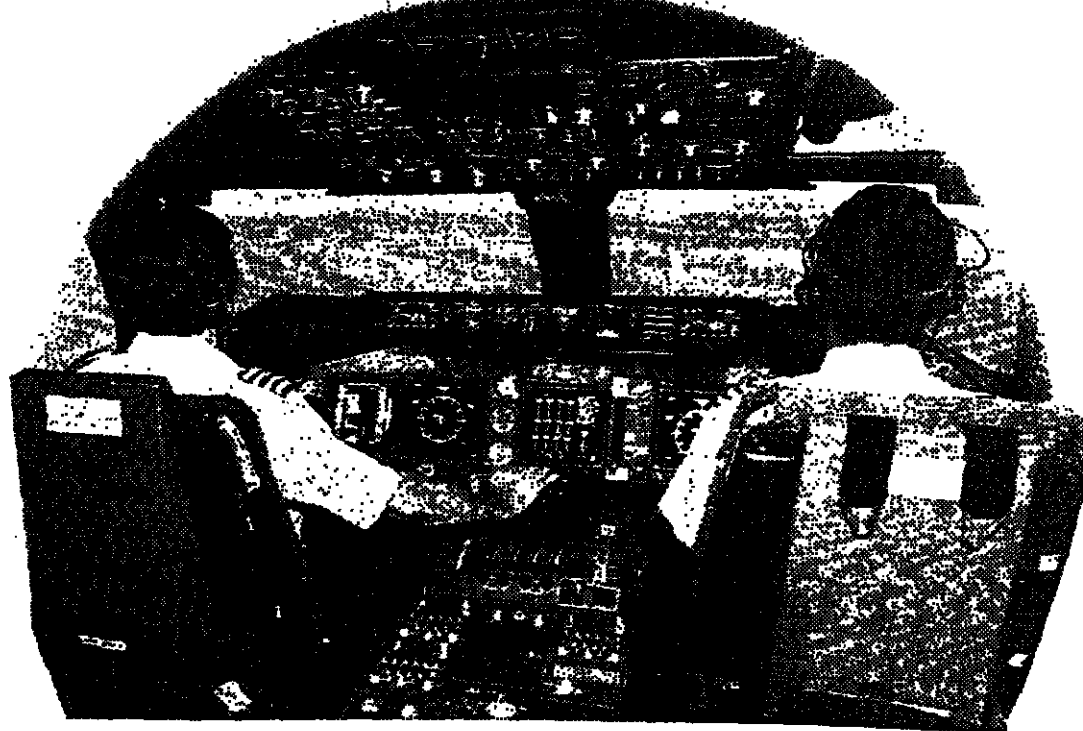
"They had got the idea on paper but it seemed that they just did not seem to be able to get it any further because no one was available to provide them with the marketing and expertise. Nor was anyone available, perhaps, to provide them with the cash to get the thing off the ground."

Although the build-up has been slow, Mr Hargrave thinks it is probably only because the group is slightly ahead of its time. "I think in 10 or 15 years' time this will be the accepted thing," he said.

In his dealings with the heads of patent departments in major companies, Mr Hargrave says he has often been told that their daily post frequently contains applications from people who have got extremely good ideas but have sent them to the wrong place.

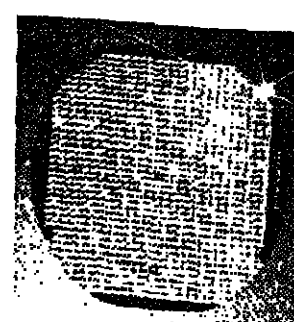
"What you really need is a sort of a clearing house for these," he adds.


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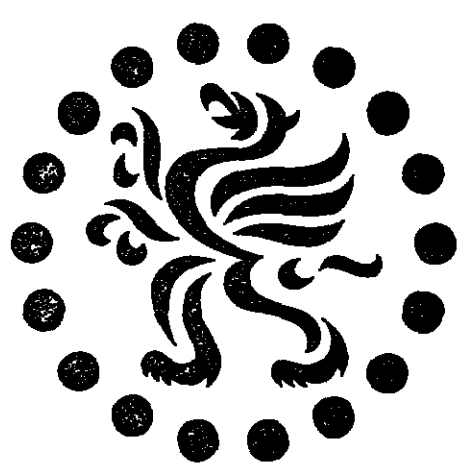
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FOCUS

BRUNEL SCIENCE PARK

The big effort for a small space shot in the 1990s

Geoffrey Pardoe, whose technology consultancy, General Technology Systems, has just taken over the lion's share of the second phase accommodation at Brunel Science Park, thinks small is beautiful.

Dr Pardoe, who in the mid-1970s was project manager for Britain's attempt at a nuclear ballistic missile, Blue Streak, and is now the country's top space technology expert, is designing a completely new, low-cost launch rocket due to fly for the first time in September 1991.

LittleLEO is being put together by a team that includes British Aerospace, Royal Ordnance, Saab Space, from Sweden, and a large West German aerospace company. It is a small launch vehicle for low-earth orbit (LEO) operations.

"We initiated it after the Challenger disaster," says Stanley Armstrong, the project manager. "That had become the only way of launching small satellites." One of the keys to LittleLEO is that it will use as much existing technology as possible. That should keep costs down and ensure reliability.

A market survey by the company suggests there should be demand for between 60 and 100 launches in the first decade.

GTS has also been involved in a space robotics feasibility study for the Department of Trade and Industry, has advised the European Space

Agency on the long-term development of a European capability for manned operations in space, and has been continuously involved with the European Commission's information technology research and development programme (Esprit).

The company is typical of the kind of organization the university has attracted to the science park. Brunel wants high-technology or science-based companies to cross-fertilize with the university. Other tenants include:

- Air Products, which was the first major company to sign a lease for science park premises. AP is a \$2 billion US-based multinational. The company has a growing commitment to research and development in Europe and the Brunel unit is its European technology centre.

The scientists are looking for new uses for gases. Current work includes new applications of the liquid nitrogen technique for freezing and chilling food.

"The concept is old," says Ian Brass, one of AP's chief scientists at Brunel. "You spray liquid nitrogen at minus 200 degrees on to a beefburger and it freezes. That is the traditional way of doing things, but there are a lot of foodstuffs which are not suitable for that sort of treatment. We are developing the technology, the equipment and the process in order to apply

cryogenic liquid nitrogen cooling to other foodstuffs.

"Fresh fruits and seafood, both of which cause problems at the moment, are likely to be among the first beneficiaries."

The company makes heavy use of the university's library and its computer search facility, says Mr Brass. It also maintains close links with Brunel's materials department and uses the surface analysis facilities in the Experimental Techniques Centre, which makes expensive analytical and experimental equipment available to university and, for a fee, science park scientists.

- Machine Intelligence Technologies, which was set up in January to develop high-level expert systems of computer software for ordinary users. Expert systems draw on the knowledge of experts in a given field and then organize it in such a way that the non-expert can be led through difficult subjects.

PharmAdvisor, one of the systems, has a data base that contains all the available data — on territories, sales targets, achievements etc — and an expert system that helps the manager to see the real importance of so much raw data. It will help the doctor to diagnose and then prescribe a course of treatment. The MIT software does exactly the same for the drugs industry manager. He gets a number of recommendations on how low performance can be improved or good performance further



Geoffrey Pardoe: A small launch orbit vehicle was initiated after the Challenger disaster

improved. "It doesn't give definitive answers," says Stephen Mott, MIT's managing director.

- Biocompatibles, a biotechnology company that is exploiting the work done on artificial membranes by researchers at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School.

One area of expertise is artificial implants. Blood tends to clot on the surface of artificial materials and devices because the structure and surface of the materials used are foreign to the normal red blood and platelet cells in the circulation. The company's researchers are developing ways of modifying these surfaces to mimic natural surfaces.

The scientists at Biocompatibles are also doing pioneering work on the development of "artificial blood". Success could play an important role in the fight against Aids, where there are always fears about the inadvertent transmission of the virus when natural blood is transfused.

A test for tenants

Collaboration with the private companies on the science park is essential, says the council of Brunel University. Many science parks, it believes, are little more than property operations, and the companies which move in often have little or no interplay with their university landlords.

Because the council is determined that this should not happen, it has set up a vetting committee to interview prospective tenants to see if they are likely to collaborate.

This is not just a formality, says Professor Gerald Musgrave, a committee member and head of the electrical engineering and electronics department. Organizations wanting to move on to the park must put up a case to the committee, and there have been a number of rejections. It does not want sales companies or firms which have no real commitment to collaboration. The nature of the relation-

ship with the university will vary considerably, he says. "At the very mundane level they may be providing sand-wich placements for our students or calling on academic staff to act as consultants; or they may be placing research contracts with the university. We are not looking for them to be acting on every level."

One area in which the vetting committee has been less successful than hoped is in getting a balance of sizes among companies. It wants to give more opportunity to start-up companies, and is discussing offering smaller, "incubator" units at a cheaper rent to encourage them.

Though there is no priority for university-associated companies, such as Professor Musgrave's own company, Frontend, they will obviously satisfy the criteria of having strong links with the university. Three of Frontend's 10 staff are Brunel graduates.

Putting theory into practice

Scientists now have to spend almost as much time chasing research funds as they do working in the laboratory. This is one of the reasons why Dr Arthur Brandwood, a zoologist turned biomaterials specialist, decided to leave Brunel's academic staff and move on to the science park.

He is now a development scientist with Biocompatibles, a biotechnology company formed in 1984 to develop and commercialize inventions pioneered by researchers at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School. The company is working on ways to modify the surfaces of existing artificial biomedical materials so that they are more compatible with the body's tissues, as, for example, making artificial arteries more compatible with blood or contact lenses more compatible with the surface of the eye.

Dr Brandwood, aged 29, had been appointed a lecturer in materials technology at the end of 1986. When Biocompatibles moved on to the science park, the Brunel academics and the company's scientists started talking about collaborative research and soon Biocompatibles asked Dr Brandwood to join them.

He says: "Here was a young company that had a lot of potential. At the time it was difficult to obtain funding for a young university researcher such as myself and there was an opportunity to move to an industrial environment where funding was not as important as getting something done."

The research is rather different — development research rather than basic work — and there is undoubtedly more pressure to produce results than there was when he was a university scientist. "That is

inevitable," he says. "You are in an industrial environment where it is important to produce results to time and to budget."

He thinks the constant interplay with the university is crucial to the company. For example, the company has just completed a cell biology research project in collaboration with the biology department.

"The help of the staff there was very important. I was able to say we had this particular problem to solve, discuss the problem with them and design the experiment which they were able to carry out in their cell biology suite. They had the facilities and we were able to make use of their expertise."

Apart from the intellectual cross-fertilization and the use of departmental expertise, the company's scientists have access — for a fee, of course — to the kind of expensive research equipment, such as electron microscopes, which the university can afford to support but a company with only intermittent needs, could not.

Like other tenants on the science park, Biocompatibles uses Brunel's Experimental Techniques Centre, a service laboratory which was set up to serve the whole university.

How does the quality of research at Biocompatibles compare with that in the university? "I don't know if it's easy to compare," says Dr Brandwood. "The objectives are quite different. What goes on here is development. The basic research has been done. What we are now doing is developing products based on those ideas. Here we are out to produce products which we can sell; over there you may be trying to find out fundamental, basic things about science."



Heinz Wolff: founding institute

Plan of the lone Wolff

Professor Heinz Wolff, the great popularizer of science, has a curious, semi-detached relationship with the science park, which flows directly from his rather curious semi-detached relationship with the university.

Professor Wolff, best known for his zany television appearances, runs the Institute of Biocircuits, a research organization specializing in space biology and devices for the elderly and disabled.

When he proposed the institute in 1983, the university was short of cash and laying off staff, so he said he would fund the whole institute himself, or rather the institute would pay for itself out of its earnings from research. It would make no call on university funds.

Professor Wolff set up his institute in a small group of Portakabins in one of the less attractive corners of the campus, and as the institute is still self-financing he felt that if he stayed in them he could neither expand nor attract the quality of staff he wanted.

So he has built a new building, again paying for it himself.

He said: "We took out a loan from the university on, roughly speaking, building society terms, committed a fair proportion of the reserves which we had accumulated and built this 11,000 sq ft building."

Which is where the science park comes in. To enable Professor Wolff to service the university's £225,000 loan he decided to make the new building about 30 per cent larger than he would actually require and to let the rest to science park companies "so that the rentals would help to pay the mortgage". He said:

"We now have five such companies on the premises. We're fully let."

Most of the tenant companies, says Professor Wolff, were found for him by Peter Russell, director of the science park. "They helped us with the leasing agreements."

The companies had to pass through the same sort of vetting procedure as companies on the main science park. The committee interviews potential tenants to ensure that they will have some sort of productive, two-way relationship with the university.

The big difference, of course, is that the rent is part of the income of the institute while the rent on the science park proper goes directly into the university coffers.

Professor Wolff's tenants range from Unicom, which organizes seminars on information technology, to a computer software company, Avco Systems, set up by two Brunel graduates. "This is something which I have always been very keen on, but has not been followed — that a science park should have some facilities for tiny start-ups, rather than expecting large companies which know exactly what they are doing to move in," he said.

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Further information: Academic Secretary, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH Tel: Uxbridge (0895) 74000

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.30 Olympic Breakfast Time** with Steve Rider. Highlights of the overnight action and live coverage of the closing stages of the show jumping section of the three-day event and the men's hockey match between Great Britain and West Germany. Plus news on the hour and half hour with regional news and weather at 6.55 and 7.55. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News** and weather followed by **Olympic Grandstand** presented by Bob Wilson and Sally Jones. Cycling, gymnastics, swimming, weightlifting, and tennis are among the events covered. News and weather at 10.00.
- 10.25 Children's BBC** introduced by Andy Crane beginning with **Play School** (r). 10.50 **The Perishers** (r). 10.55 **Five to Seven** with Dora Bryan.
- 11.00 News** and weather followed by **Olympic Grandstand**. Bob Wilson and Sally Jones introduce live coverage of five swimming finals — the women's 400m freestyle; men's 100m freestyle; women's 100m backstroke; men's 200m backstroke; and the women's 400m freestyle relay. Last in the series with weather at 12.00. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. Lucy goes into a sulk and Henry plots his innocence.
- 1.50 Film: Moonfleet** (1955) starring Stewart Granger, George Sanders and Joan Greenwood. Adventure yarn about a celebrated Dorset smuggler. Directed by Fritz Lang.
- 3.15 Gardeners' Direct**. The last in the series with Geoffrey Smith and Stefan Buzzacchi answer viewers' gardening queries submitted by telephone. To participate ring Leeds (0532) 448222 before 2.30pm.

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Meanings of Madness**. Ends at 7.30. 8.00 **Ceefax**.
- 9.20 Daytime on Two**: a garden festival 9.40 **Information Technology** 10.00 **Different Types of Bread** 10.25 **Thinkabout** 10.40 **Teachers' special** programme 11.00 **Tudor ships and seamen** 11.20 **Woodlands** 11.40 **The Crossing**, drama about a young African girl working for the guerrillas 12.10 **Trigonometry** 12.30 **Is the earth on the edge of a man-made disaster?** 12.55 **Managing change**.
- 1.25 Check-a-Block** (r). 1.40 **Music Time** (r).
- 2.00 News** and weather followed by **Watch** (r).
- 2.15 Olympic Grandstand** featuring tennis from Seoul and the 2.30, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 races from Ascot. News and weather at 2.55 and 3.50.
- 4.30 Living on the Land**. A portrait of Yorkshire landowner George Lane Fox (r). 4.55 **Family Portrait**. The de Greys of Merton Hall (r).

- 5.35 Country File**. Past and present of the English River Stour (r).
- 6.00 Film: Lady Hamilton** 1941. b/w starring Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier. Dramatised account of the notorious love affair between Lord Nelson and the wife of the British Ambassador to Italy. Directed by Alexander Korda.
- 8.00 Natural Causes: The Acid Test**. Ian Breach tells the story of a public health cover-up in Cornwall.
- 8.30 Car of the Decade**. William Woollard presents a history of motor car design (revised repeat).
- 9.00 Cool 15**. Comedy impressions from Phil Cool.
- 9.30 A Picture of Health**. This second of three programmes explores the birth and early life of the NHS.
- 10.20 Film 88** includes reviews of *Stars and Bars*, *No Man's Land* and *The Running Man* (r).
- 10.50 Newsnight** 11.35 **Weather** 11.40 **Open University: Weekend Outlook** 11.45 **Fundamentals of Computing**. Ends 12.15am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am**
- 9.25 Thames news and weather** 9.30 **Runway**. Travel and general knowledge quiz hosted by Richard Madeley 10.00 **Puddle Lane**. Puppet series with Neil Innes (r). 10.25 **Thames news and weather**
- 10.30 Mr & Mrs. Quiz game for married couples**. The questionmaster is Derek Batey
- 11.00 Olympics 1988** with Dicky Davies and Hazel Irvine. Includes five swimming finals: the modern pentathlon; cycling; showjumping; gymnastics; shooting; tennis and men's hockey.
- 1.00 News at One** with Jon Snow
- 1.30 Thames news and weather** 1.35 **Play Like That**. The guests are Rick Wakeman and Keith Chegwin 4.45 **Dangermouse**. Animated adventures of a secret service rodent (r).
- 5.15 Olympics 1988**. The best of the day's action introduced by Nick Owen and Alison Holloway.
- 5.45 News** with Alastair Stewart
- 6.00 Olympics 1988 highlights** 6.30 **Thames news and weather** 6.55 **Help** with advice on alms for the elderly
- 7.00 Emmerdale Farm**. Annie is involved in an accident at Emmerdale.
- 7.30 Carry on Laughing**. A compilation of clips from the successful *Carry On* series of comedy films (r).

CHANNEL 4

- 7.00 Olympics 1988**. Highlights of the overnight action 7.30 **Schools: keeping warm** 8.32 **Junior maths** 10.04 **Early morning routine** 10.25 **CDT teaching** to 11-14 year-olds 10.41 **World development** 10.55 **World news** 11.00 **Introduction to reading** 11.15 **Harvesting** 11.22 **Autumn** 11.44 **Two young Brookside** actors compare their professional and private lives.
- 12.00 The Elephant's Child**. A public health cover-up in Cornwall.
- 12.30 Business Daily**. 1.00 **Seaside Street**.
- 2.00 Crown and Sherrin**. A portrait of two Anglo-Irish landlords (r).
- 2.30 Film: Everything is Rhythmic** (1936, b/w) starring Harry Roy. Comedy musical exploiting the talents of the post-war 1930s band leader. Directed by Alfred Goulding.
- 3.45 In My Experience**. Mavis Nicholson talks to Dame Alicia Markova about her life and career (r).
- 4.30 Fifteen-to-One**.

Tanner for your vote

TELEVISION CHOICE

Since American presidential candidates these days are primarily fashioned for and by the media, it seems only a short step to invent one, give him a campaign staff and send him on the nomination trail in full view of press and television. Such was the genesis of *Tanner '88* (Channel 4, 9.00pm), a very funny and all too accurate satire on the American political process devised by Garry Trudeau (of *Doonesbury*) and the film director Robert Altman. It is, of course, a fiction, with Jack Tanner, a late contender for the 1988 Democratic nomination, played by Michael Murphy. But it is filmed in a documentary style, with hand-held cameras and overlapping dialogue (an Altman speciality), and it has Tanner "campaigning" alongside real candidates like Bob Dole, Pat Robertson and Gary Hart. Altman's word for this new genre is "mockumentary" and the line between reality and fantasy sometimes becomes thin indeed. Out on the stump a farmer tells Tanner: "I'm probably gonna vote for Dukakis." To which Tanner retorts: "Well now, you don't want to vote for a guy unless you know his name." The Tanner biography is immaculately constructed: his involvement in the civil rights movement and the campaign against the Vietnam War, election to Congress, a daughter with Hodgkin's Disease and a failed marriage. The image-building includes a tip from his campaign staff that he should never be photographed carrying his own bag. "It means you can't delegate," Tanner '88 is a delicious joke. It makes you think that if Jack Tanner did stand, he would be elected. After all, Ronald Reagan started as an actor.



Michael Murphy as a last-minute Democratic candidate in a "mockumentary" about the American election (C4, 9.00pm)

Amanda Richardson's documentary, *East End GPs* (Channel 4, 10.00pm) is a reminder that behind the booming facade of riverside yuppie flats, the London docklands are still an area of poverty, homelessness, unemployment — and disease. *Tower Hamlets*, where the film was made, was recently branded one of the most unhealthy places in Britain. "I see more pathology here in six months than someone work-

ing in an area like Berkshire might see in six years," says Dr John Robson, member of a group practice in Poplar. Dr John Balazs, who works with the homeless, admits: "I am not doing this job with the expectation that I am going to change anyone's life." All the GPs interviewed agree that poor health is the consequence of social deprivation.

Peter Waymark

Leaping to conclusions

RADIO CHOICE

Any expectations you might have that Sir Lords A-Leaping (Radio 4, 11.25am) might have something to do with G & S or athletic peers, will have been confounded three weeks ago when the series started. The intention behind these John Timpon interviews, apparently, is to demonstrate that there really is life after elevation to the peerage. The closest anyone gets to leaping during these friendly encounters between commoner and noble is when Timpon exclaims "marvellous!", giving us the impression that he has jumped off the ground in a fit of astonishment. This week's non-leaping peer is the Earl of Cranbrook, noted conservationist and environmentalist. His achievements have sometimes been distorted by newspapers. His thesis on the birds that make birds' nest soup



Keen conservationist: the Earl of Cranbrook (R4, 11.25am) possible — the outcome of months spent in a cave in Borneo, which also resulted in a paper about the heel bone of a dog that died 20,000 years ago — earned him the *Daily Express* headline: "Peer proves pigeons won't sit on pointed eggs", which was not the object of the exercise. When asked by the RSPCA to head an inquiry into the

practicability of a proficiency test for anglers and shooters, he suggested that one of the most humane methods of despatching an injured rabbit would be a knock-out punch. For his pains, he was reviled in some newspapers for advocating cruelty to animals. On the lighter side, and with no hint of resentment, the fifth Earl of Cranbrook reveals that whereas both of his young sons have had reptiles named after them, thus far the only species to carry his name are a mite and a sub-genus of flea.

One of 10 owners of small businesses will be £10,000 better off tonight. The 10 are finalists in the *Radio 4/Radio Times Enterprise Competition*, and the winner will be announced in *Enterprise Winners* (Radio 4, 8.15pm). For suspense of another kind, listen to the final, mole-unearthing episode of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (Radio 4, 12.25pm).

Peter Davalle



Lisa Bonet, who stars in a new comedy series (C4, 8.30pm)

- BBC1 WALES** 6.30pm-7.00 News and weather 7.00-7.30 **News Today** 11.25-11.30 **News and weather** 11.30-11.40 **News Today** 11.40-11.50 **News and weather** 11.50-12.00 **News Today** 12.00-12.10 **News and weather** 12.10-12.20 **News Today** 12.20-12.30 **News and weather** 12.30-12.40 **News Today** 12.40-12.50 **News and weather** 12.50-1.00 **News Today** 1.00-1.10 **News and weather** 1.10-1.20 **News Today** 1.20-1.30 **News and weather** 1.30-1.40 **News Today** 1.40-1.50 **News and weather** 1.50-2.00 **News Today** 2.00-2.10 **News and weather** 2.10-2.20 **News Today** 2.20-2.30 **News and weather** 2.30-2.40 **News Today** 2.40-2.50 **News and weather** 2.50-3.00 **News Today** 3.00-3.10 **News and weather** 3.10-3.20 **News Today** 3.20-3.30 **News and weather** 3.30-3.40 **News Today** 3.40-3.50 **News and weather** 3.50-4.00 **News Today** 4.00-4.10 **News and weather** 4.10-4.20 **News Today** 4.20-4.30 **News and weather** 4.30-4.40 **News Today** 4.40-4.50 **News 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| MARKETS | THE POUND |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| FT 30 Share 1443.8 (+13.9) | US dollar 1.6760 (-0.0100) |
| FT-SE 100 1796.8 (+24.7) | W German mark 3.1398 (-0.0027) |
| USM (Datastream) 160.33 (+0.35) | Trade-weighted 75.3 (-0.3) |



THE TIMES

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1988

PART 2
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
SPORT 43-48

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Lloyds mortgage at 12.8%

Lloyds Bank is putting up its mortgage rate to 12.8 per cent from 11.5 per cent. This pitches it between the rates of the National Westminster Bank and leading building societies such as the Halifax, Abbey National and Nationwide at 12.75 per cent, and Barclays (13 per cent) and the Midland (13.5 per cent).

Rise for bank

Bank of Scotland yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits for the half year to August 31 from £55.7 million to £87.1 million.

The interim dividend is 5p, up from 4.4p at the same time last year. *Tempus*, page 26

THE TIMES

MONEY

No longer do people shuffle into the pawnbroker in their carpet slippers; they march in, Fiat in hand. Family Money examines the modern pawnbroker. Family Money has interviewed Britain's first Professor of Personal Finance. We explain the likely impact of mortgage rate rises on house prices, and ask, is it cheaper to live on a boat? All in Money, in *The Times*, this Saturday.

STOCK MARKETS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| New York | 2092.46 (+4.98)* |
| Dow Jones | 2092.46 (+4.98)* |
| Nikkei Average | 27712.66 (+184.08) |
| Hong Kong | 2433.00 (+8.77) |
| Amsterdam Gen | 270.8 (+2.2) |
| Sydney AO | 1542.9 (-2.7) |
| Frankfurt | 1576.4 (+17.7) |
| Commerzbank | 5315.1 (+104.4) |
| Paris CAC | 366.6 (+1.9) |
| Zurich S&K Gen | 474.2 (+4.4) |
| FT-AI Share | 929.50 (+10.83) |
| FT-500 | 1012.12 (+10.22) |
| FT Gold Mines | 165.2 (-3.0) |
| FT Fixed Interest | 86.00 (+0.33) |
| FT Govt Secs | 87.01 (-0.08) |

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| RISER: | |
| FMG Group | 466.7p (+15p) |
| Redland | 414p (+15p) |
| Barratt Devs | 179p (+13p) |
| Standard Chart | 560p (+26p) |
| English China | 478p (+13p) |
| Seaglen | 192p (+14p) |
| Pearson | 73p (+23p) |
| Rank Org | 673p (+21p) |
| Johnson Matthey | 340p (+21p) |
| Charter Cons | 382p (+45p) |
| Lucas | 572p (+23p) |
| A Kershaw | 450p (+18p) |
| Priorit Marlane | 350p (+17p) |
| Wellcome | 387p (+17p) |
| Lornt | 307p (+17p) |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| FALLS: | |
| Laporte | 396p (-15p) |
| J Menzies | 288p (-10p) |
| Union Discount | 500p (-10p) |
| Cater Allen | 320p (-13p) |
| Schroders | 900p (-25p) |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| London Bank Base: | 12% |
| 3-month Interbank: | 12%-12% |
| 3-month eligible bills: | 11%-11% |
| buying rate | |
| US: Prime Rate: | 10% |
| Federal Funds: | 8% |
| 3-month Treasury Bills: | 7.17-7.15% |
| 30-year bonds: | 10 1/8-10 1/8% |

CURRENCIES

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| London: | New York: |
| £: \$1.6750 | £: \$1.6752 |
| £: DM1.3398 | £: DM1.8747 |
| £: Sfr2.6499 | £: Sfr1.5835 |
| £: FF10.9631 | £: FF6.3700 |
| £: Yen224.29 | £: Yen134.27 |
| £: Index: 75.3 | £: Index: 99.5 |
| ECU £0.69993 | SDR £0.771294 |

GOLD

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| London Fixing: | |
| AM \$401.80 pm \$400.85 | |
| close \$401.00-401.50 (239.25-239.75) | |
| New York: | |
| Comex \$400.10-400.80 | |

NORTH SEA OIL

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Brent (Oct) pm \$13.35 (\$13.32) | |
| * Denotes latest trading price | |

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

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● Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250

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Agnew rejects 'ludicrous' Minorco offer as shares soar to £14

£2.9bn battle for ConsGold

By Colin Campbell

Minorco, the Luxembourg investment company controlled by the Oppenheimer-founded Anglo American-De Beers group, yesterday launched a hostile £2.9 billion bid for Consolidated Gold Fields Group — the biggest contested offer in British corporate history.

Mr Rudolph Agnew, the ConsGold chairman, who was told of the Minorco approach by Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Minorco and De Beers, three minutes before the 8am London announcement, rejected the bid — valuing each ConsGold share at £13.06 — as "ludicrous."

ConsGold held telephone conferences with its overseas directors and a London meeting with all board members (with the exception of the two Anglo-De Beers representatives), who all rejected the Minorco approach.

"It will be strongly resisted. We believe that increased ownership by Minorco... would be very damaging to Gold Fields' UK and worldwide business and prejudicial to the interests of shareholders and employees."

He gave warnings of "political minefields ahead."

The bid — one Minorco share plus £19 cash for every two shares in ConsGold — is spearheaded by Sir Michael Edwards, the former British Leyland chief, who joined Minorco's board in 1984 and was yesterday elevated to deputy chairman and chief executive.

Minorco already holds a 28.94 per cent stake in ConsGold, a holding which was transferred to it on February 27, 1981, by Anglo American and De Beers, which on February 12 a year earlier pounced on ConsGold in a dawn raid.

ConsGold shares vaulted from £10.78 to £13.88, rising

to £14 in late trading. Although ConsGold has long been regarded as a takeover target, with Minorco as the favourite candidate, Minorco has clearly been embarrassed by heavy trading in ConsGold options and shares.

Sir Michael said the bid marked a new phase in Minorco's life and direction and would turn the group from being merely a passive, dull and boring group with an investment trust image into one ready to take on global opportunities in the world of natural resources. Minorco had considered the bid for at least two years.

Mr Agnew admitted for the first time yesterday that in

Minorco said it had at 11am yesterday asked for a Stock Exchange inquiry into ConsGold share price movements. The extent of the inquiry will be determined by the Stock Exchange, but Minorco said the recent heavy trading "had done us no good."

Minorco shares rose from 725p to 772p.

Comment.....27

1986, ConsGold had examined the logic of combining Minorco and ConsGold.

"We concluded that it made no financial or logical sense. We warned them (Minorco) of the political dangers, and the lack of commercial logic."

"I do not feel I have been stabbed in the back, despite assurances in 1980 — subsequently re-iterated — that Minorco would not bid for ConsGold. But they have been putting pressure on us in various forms for the last four years (to merge)," he added.

Sir Michael detailed Minorco's plans, if successful, for Minorco to sell off ConsGold's South African investments and to review ConsGold's 49.3 per cent holding in the North American gold min-

ing company, Newmont Mining Corporation.

Minorco has no South African assets or investments. If the bid succeeds, the Anglo American-De Beers stake will fall from 60 to 40 per cent — a move welcomed by Anglo and De Beers. In addition, there would be an Oppenheimer family holding — 7 per cent at present — of a maximum 4.5 per cent.

Anglo and De Beers have said they will "not seek to play any role in the day-to-day affairs of Minorco." On this assurance Sir Michael agreed to assume his new role.

Under the new guise of one of the largest worldwide natural resources groups, with total assets of \$5 billion (£3 billion), companies in which Minorco was a "passive" investor and those not yielding a satisfactory return would be "critically reviewed... dispassionately, and uninhibited by historic attitudes and decisions."

Sir Michael declined to specify which Minorco holdings may be put up for sale. But Charter Consolidated, where it holds 36 per cent, yesterday rose from 348p to 392p. Minorco's other investments include Engelhard Corporation (30.5 per cent), Inspiration Resources (56.2 per cent) and Adco Resources Corporation (48.3 per cent).

On Monday, Minorco disclosed that at June 30 it had net cash balances of \$990 million, and net assets of \$3.1 billion.

Mr Agnew yesterday charged that the bid "made by a Luxembourg shell which was a front for South Africa" was a "simple and naked asset stripping operation."

Sir Michael has denied the charge.

It has also been suggested that the Minorco move is, in effect, a game-plan merely to establish a fresh base in Britain for the new generation Oppenheimer dynasty.



Pointing to a new phase in Minorco's life and direction: Sir Michael Edwards yesterday (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance)

The master of conflict steps in

By Our City Staff

The diminutive figure of Sir Michael Edwards is no stranger to corporate conflict. At British Leyland it was internal, as he struggled to free the lumbering motor giant from the stranglehold of militant shop stewards and propel it towards a viable future.

At ICL, once Britain's great hope in the mainframe computer industry, and at Dunlop

it was external, with both companies eventually falling to takeover offers.

It was fitting that Minorco should elevate Sir Michael, 57, to the chief executive's hot-seat after four apparently peaceful years at the board table on the very day of the bid for ConsGold. If Britain's biggest mining finance has its way, the battle for ConsGold will be every bit as bloody as the conflict with Red Robbo

and his cohorts of BL union activists.

Appropriately enough, given Minorco's pedigree, Sir Michael's business career started in South Africa where, after graduating with a law degree at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, he eventually made his mark as a tough and commercially-sharp manager in the Chloride batteries group. He later came to work for Chloride in Britain and

became chairman in the mid-1970s.

In the book he wrote on his BL days, Sir Michael makes it clear that he was appalled by the industrial anarchy there and that the power struggle with the unions was a must. He isolated the ring leaders and 87 per cent of voting workers backed his reorganisation plan. He may find ConsGold and its shareholders just as difficult to overcome.

'Rich boy' who had to start at the bottom

Mr Rudolph Agnew's roots with Consolidated Gold Fields, the British natural resource company founded 101 years ago, go back well before 1957 when he joined as a management trainee.

Between 1932 and 1939, his grandfather (who died when Mr Agnew was five) was a chairman of ConsGold, "and when I joined the group, the management assumed that, because of my grandfather, I was so rich that I should be paid £100 less than every other management trainee."

"I was not rich at all," said the man who rose from his start in the share register department to become the chief executive in 1978 and the ConsGold chairman in 1983.

Rudolph Ion Joseph Agnew

was born on March 12, 1934, and was educated at Downside. He served in the King's Royal Irish Hussars from 1953 to 1957, and at annual meetings leans heavily on his half-Irish connection to disarm shareholders with light-hearted quips.

He has worked variously throughout the ConsGold group, moving through the quarrying and concrete industries to head the ARC stone crushing subsidiary in 1976, before being appointed deputy chairman of ConsGold and chief executive in September, 1978.

His directorships include those of Anglo American Corporation and Standard Chartered. His personal interests are horse racing and shooting.



Rudolph Agnew: Light-hearted quips for shareholders from the grandson of a former ConsGold chairman

Kleinwort Benson in £11m drop

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Kleinwort Benson has announced a £11.2 million drop in disclosed pre-tax profits for the half-year to June 30, to £26.7 million, which was well below City expectations.

The profits fall, from £37.9 million at the half-way stage last year, was the result of a lower return from the group's own investments in the equity market.

Profits were also depressed by a jump in interest costs on loan capital from £7.9 million to £13.4 million, reflecting the increase in loan capital last year and the rise in interest rates.

Mr David Peake, the chairman, said although the result was disappointing it was partially offset by a substantial improvement in the group's operating profits. Banking operations had performed strongly, while the securities division achieved a small profit compared with a £7.5 million loss in the first half of 1987.

The improved operating performance in key divisions showed the bank was succeeding in integrating its different businesses into a coherent group, Mr Peake added.

Both treasury and corporate finance divisions, however, had suffered small declines in profitability as a result of poor market conditions. The fund management business showed a fall in profits from £3.8 million to £295,000.

The group is maintaining the interim dividend at 5.3p and offering shareholders the option of a scrip dividend.

Tempus, page 26

Current deficit equivalent to more than 3% of GDP

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's current account deficit was equivalent to more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product in the second quarter of this year, new official figures show.

This was before the sharp deterioration in the current account position, shown up in the July trade figures.

Second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) figures issued by the Central Statistical Office also show that there has been an increase in underlying inflation in Britain which is well in excess of the effects of higher mortgage rates.

The deterioration in Britain's trade position was underlined by the fact that, while

total domestic expenditure rose by 5.6 per cent in the second quarter compared with a year earlier, the expenditure measure of GDP increased by only 2.5 per cent, with the difference due to the deterioration in trade.

Overall, the GDP data showed a rise, on the average measure, of 4 per cent compared with a year earlier, against a 4.5 per cent growth rate in the first quarter.

The second-quarter data are based on 1983 GDP weights and include an upward revision from 0.7 to 1.6 per cent in the quarterly GDP rise for the first three months of the year.

The quarterly increase in

the March-June period fell to 0.5 per cent. But officials said there was no indication of a slowdown in growth in the figures.

Output data — the best indicator of short-term movements in the economy — rose a strong 1.1 per cent in the second quarter.

Inflation, as measured by the GDP deflator, was 5.5 per cent in the second quarter, compared with 5.4 per cent in the first quarter.

The figures suggest that underlying inflation in the economy has moved into the 5 to 6 per cent range.

This compares with about 4 per cent in the first half of last year.

Barratt Developments profits surge to £61.5m

Sir Lawrie to move aside

By Wolfgang Münchau

Sir Lawrie Barratt, founder of Barratt Developments, the third biggest housebuilder in Britain, is finally relinquishing control of the business he has led for 30 years. He will resign as chairman and chief executive at the end of the year, when he will be succeeded by Mr John Swanson, the current managing director.

Sir Lawrie, aged 60, is to become life president of the company, but is expected to become more involved with housing and inner-city charities or take up public office.

Despite the news of Sir Lawrie's impending retirement, the shares rose by 13p to 179p yesterday following the

announcement of a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £61.5 million for the year ended June.

Sir Lawrie said: "Five years ago, we embarked upon a major restructure of the group to restore the former high levels of profitability and pre-tax margins which had been achieved for so many years. This has been accomplished."

Pre-interest margins now stand at 12 per cent.

In the early 1980s the company, which then had record sales of 16,000 units, ran into difficulties over its timber-framed construction method. Last year sales were up to 7,000 houses against 6,800 the year before, at an

average price of £55,400, up 24 per cent, mainly as a result of the property boom.

Sir Lawrie said that the leisure division, which includes time-sharing, incurred a loss following adverse press comment, but was restored to profitability following a strategic review. During the first half the division lost £1.5 million.

Profits were also boosted by the sale of a number of commercial properties for £28 million at a total profit of £7.2 million.

Earnings per share rose to 23.5p from 15.2p and the final dividend is raised to 8.37p per share, making a total of 11.16p, a 25 per cent increase.

BANK OF SCOTLAND

INTERIM RESULTS

| Group | 6 months ended 31 Aug '88 | 6 months ended 31 Aug '87 | Year ended 29 Feb '88 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| operating profit | £86.4m | £77.9m | £157.9m |
| Pre-tax profit | £87.1m | £55.7m* | £131.3m* |
| Retained profit | £45.4m | £26.0m | £58.6m |
| Earnings per £1 Capital Stock | 29.3p | 18.3p | 43.5p |
| Dividend per £1 Capital Stock | 5.0p | 4.4p | 12.6p |
| Advances | £9544.9m | £7348.2m | £8240.9m |
| Capital Resources | £1098.5m | £872.3m | £1032.7m |

*After exceptional specific provisions for sovereign debts.
*Adjusted for Capitalisation Issue.

Group Operating Profit up by 11%
Pre-tax profit increased by 56%
Earnings improved by 60% to 29.3 pence per £1 Capital Stock
Interim Dividend increased by 13.6% net to 5 pence per £1 Capital Stock
Lending grew to £9.5 billion and Total Assets to £12.4 billion
Gearing Ratio (Free Capital) is 7.3% compared with 7.8% at 29th February 1988
Equity to Assets Ratio is a healthy 5.6%

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

For a copy of the Interim Report please write to Alastair G. King, Public Affairs Manager, Bank of Scotland, Orchard Brae House, PO Box 725, 30 Queen's Road, Edinburgh EH4 2UH.

Kleinwort Benson confuses City with £11m fall

Kleinwort Benson's interim results are down — but in one sense they are better than they might have been. Merchant banks, with their opaque accounting procedures, are still allowed to produce results like this. Merchant bank investors, a strange breed, are equally still willing to accept such contradictory information.

With interim pre-tax profits down £11 million, one might have expected gloom at Fenchurch Street. If there was, it did not show. The fall came from "group investments" — which in this case means capital invested in equities, of all things. One might imagine a merchant bank would know better than to lose its own money in the stock market.

Whether the shortfall was a loss or merely a fall in profits on equity investment is not clear since it came as a surprise to many that Kleinwort's profits were so reliant on this source. At any rate, such investment acumen might give some of Kleinwort's growing

list of fund management clients pause for thought.

Indeed, assuming the group makes about £55 million to £60 million for the full year, its return on capital will be a mere 6 per cent. The subscribers to last year's rights issue can hardly be happy with that. It could have done better investing in bank deposits, which may be its policy in future.

Coming not long after Morgan Grenfell's disappointing half-year results, Kleinwort's figures only emphasize the volatility of merchant bank profits — something investors have long suspected but which secretive accounting rules have kept fairly well hidden.

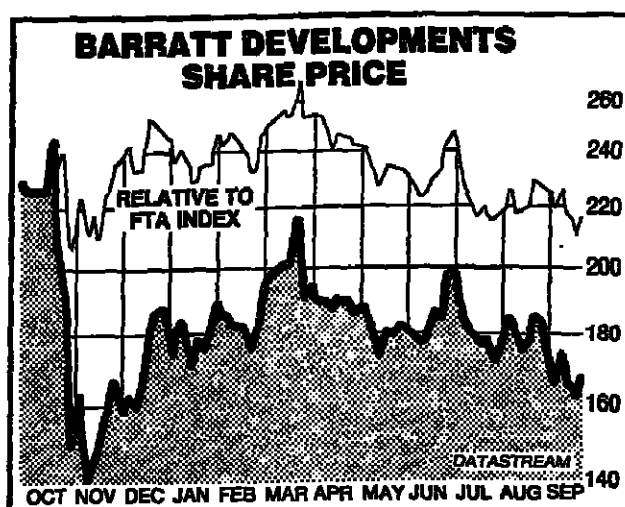
Although its disclosed pre-tax profit is down, Kleinwort insists its operating profit in several crucial areas is up. Banking grew strongly, and securities has at last pulled itself into the black — just — from the £7.5 million loss last time. This may be evidence that the group has overcome its post-Big Bang blues, but it is still too soon to say.

The prospective p/e of 13 looks way above the group's peers. Whether this will still be the case after the other merchant banks have reported is also a matter for speculation.

Barratt

Barratt Developments used to be Britain's largest house-builder. But having fallen to the number three position, behind Tarmac and Wimpey, it nevertheless remained one of the smartest. Barratt's troublesome past, mainly a result of a downmarket concentration on timber-frame housing, culminated in the collapse of profits in 1985. However, yesterday's announcement of a 57 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £61.5 million took even the most optimistic market observers by surprise.

Its once 70/30 split of sales in favour of first-time buyers has now reversed, representing a distinctly upmarket move. Pre-interest margins have returned to a respectable



12 per cent, which is still lower than the 20 per cent achieved by Tarmac and certain others. Barratt could get away with a market slowdown. There appears to be a strategic sales shift to the provinces in the South-east and the company's relative short hand stock in the region — 18 months compared to a national average of three years — is helpful and suggests a shrewd reading of the market.

cent; the yield, ex-dividend, is about 9 per cent. The shares trade at less than six times earnings, and the dividend growth, up 25 per cent to 14.9p per share last year, is forecast to stay at this level.

Most important must be the company's position as the number one takeover candidate in this highly fragmented sector. In particular, Far Eastern building companies are rumoured to be keen on entering the booming British housing market in the run-up to 1992. With Barratt's market capitalization currently at under £300 million, an acquisition may be one of the cheapest ways into the market.

Bank of Scotland

Bank of Scotland continues to move serenely forward apparently unaffected by the bumps and pitfalls that other British banks periodically encounter. The current set of interim results only confirms the bank as one of the quality stocks in the sector.

The company has been piling on assets over the six-month period, mainly through its mortgage book which grew from £1.3 billion to £1.8 billion. Lending in other areas also increased though not at quite such a breakneck pace. Overall assets have grown by about 30 per cent compared with 22 per cent over the same period last year.

At the same time, costs have been rising rapidly in relation to lending, though this is not a matter of serious concern. There is bound to be a lag between making loans and receiving any profit from them. There is also the lag on mortgage lending when interest rates rose rapidly during the summer while mortgage rates responded some time later.

The second half of the year should therefore see a dual and opposite effect to the first half. Lending will slow down — particularly on the home loans side as the housing market cools off. This will give earnings a breathing space in

which to catch up lending. The bank has also taken the opportunity to raise its provisions again, with Third World debt provisions now the highest of the British clearers at 33 per cent.

Otherwise, the figures show more of the same successful formula. The electronic banking services also appears to be finally paying its way with a sharp increase in interest-bearing deposits. Associated company profits have risen strongly, up from £1.6 million to £4.3 million.

British Linen Bank, the merchant banking subsidiary, has also performed handsomely, more than doubling its profits to £8.7 million. Although £3 million of this comes from a one-off lease termination, the growth is still healthy.

Although the yield on Bank of Scotland shares is below that of the English clearers with a prospective p/e ratio of 5.9, above the other banks, the quality still makes them attractive.

East Midlands board in £120m power venture

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The East Midlands Electricity Board is to become the first of the 12 area electricity boards lined up for privatization to build its own power station, to meet the growing demand from its customers in the Corby-Kettering and Northampton areas.

It is to build a £120 million gas-fired power station in Corby in partnership with Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering.

It has submitted a planning application for the station, which will be built on a 15-acre site and could be feeding power into the board's low-voltage grid system in late 1991.

The East Midlands board, which, with the adjoining Eastern board, is considered to be the best prepared to take advantage of the opportunities

presented by privatization, is also planning a coal-fired station in the Nottingham area in partnership with British Coal.

The power station planned at Corby will produce 350 megawatts of power from the state-of-the-art gas turbine plant, burning natural gas from the British Gas grid system.

It will use a combined cycle system which will produce electricity from the gas turbine and then use steam produced from the turbine waste heat to drive a steam turbine, generating increased power. The station will produce clean emissions.

Similar stations are likely to be built by Eastern Electricity to meet the growing demand for power from the Peterborough and north Bedfordshire areas, and Hawker

Siddeley Power is also likely to be involved in those projects.

Mr Phil Camp, the East Midlands board's director of corporate services, said the Corby project was an example of the competition in power generation which privatization would bring.

He said: "Competition is very welcome. It will provide downward pressure on electricity prices."

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering, based in Leicester, is one of the Eastern board's largest industrial power consumers.

Mr Bran Page, its managing director, said: "The Corby scheme provides an excellent opportunity for the UK to benefit from our extensive track record in similar private power plants in the United States."

Consumer switch lifts Stag

By Martin Waller



House proud: William Evans (left) and Patrick Radford

Stag furniture has put a 56 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.01 million in the six months to end-June down to a switch in consumer spending from hi-fi and microwaves to home improvement.

The interim dividend is raised to 2.5p from 1.75p, as forecast at the year-end, to reduce the disparity with the final payment, said Mr Patrick Radford, the chairman.

Mr Alan Parkes, the finance director, added that the group was relatively unconcerned at the recent rise in interest rates. "Our record order books are sufficiently long, covering nine months to a year, to cushion us against any reduction in consumer spending."

Earlier this month, Stag announced the purchase of a factory in Cramlington, Northumberland, to concentrate on pine products for Marks and Spencer. Mr William Evans, the managing director, said first deliveries from the plant are due next spring.

The profits growth was entirely organic, said Mr Parkes. Turnover rose from £16.51 million to £19.85 million.

BZW still seeks Tokyo seat

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, has no plans to buy a Japanese securities firm to gain backdoor entry to the Tokyo Stock Exchange, according to Mr Peter Leslie, vice-chairman of Barclays Bank.

But Mr Leslie, speaking in Tokyo yesterday, said he had not given up on membership for his bank's stockbroking subsidiary and hoped it would be achieved soon.

BZW has been knocking on Tokyo's door ever since it failed to establish a foothold on the Japanese exchange when Tokyo expanded its membership last autumn. With James Capel, the bro-

ker, also seeking admittance, the issue of access by British brokers to a seat on the Tokyo floor has been a focus of dispute between British and Japanese officials for some time.

Lord Camoys, BZW's vice-chairman, who is with Mr

Leslie on his visit to Japan, said Japanese banks already operating in the European Community should be given licences to open branches anywhere in the Common Market after the EEC's financial markets are integrated in 1992.

COMPANY BRIEFS

KLEARFOLD INC (Int)
Pre-tax: \$0.950 (\$0.804)m
EPS: 6.6c (5.0c)
Div: 1.8c (1.7c)
RIVER & MERCANTILE (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.494m
EPS: 4.2p
Div: 1.5p

Continuing modernization of the company's production facilities has allowed it to increase operating margin. Turnover \$11.10 (\$10.79)m. NAV income share 46.01p. NAV capital share 30.28p. Gross revenue £0.578m.

£61.5 MILLION.

An outstanding product range, service and innovative management have together contributed towards our record £61.5M profit.

In the UK our National network of 19 housebuilding subsidiaries are ideally located to meet the strong housing demand which has now spread from the South East throughout the whole Country.

All our UK subsidiaries, including

Commercial, Leisure and General Contracting are structured to ensure consistent and steady growth.

Our Californian homebuilding subsidiary produced record profits and is now expanding in an area of high demand.

At home and abroad we have product and people now taking the Group forward into our new era of expansion.

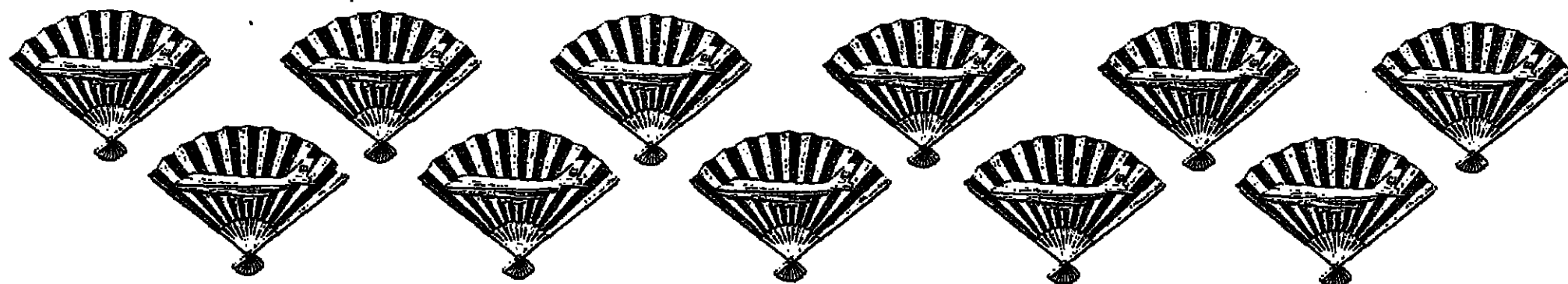
BARRATT RESULTS — Year ended 30th June

| | 1988 | 1987 | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Turnover | £529.5m | £432.5m | UP 22% |
| Profit before Tax | £61.5m | £39.2m | UP 57% |
| Earnings per Share | 23.5p | 15.2p | UP 55% |
| Dividend | 11.16p | 8.93p | UP 25% |



BARRATT

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Gowat shares

Alexander Proudfoot advances to £14.3m

Oliver's

Dixon

Property

Finlay

Laporte

Losing the golden touch

On their marks

Goward stake lifts Corah shares despite £7m losses

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Russell Goward, the Australian takeover specialist, raised his shareholding in Corah as the textiles group unveiled half-year losses of £7 million after significant restructuring.

Charterhall, the investment company controlled by Mr Goward's Westmex Group, said it now owned just over 6 million Corah shares, taking its stake to 17.22 per cent.

The market scents a bid battle in the offing and Corah shares gained a further 1p to 75p, despite the grim losses. The shares have climbed more than 36 per cent from their post-crash low of 55p.

Mr Goward has revamped Charterhall and since the ac-

quisition of the Allebone group, is concentrating on retail operations, especially in shoes. Charterhall has a number of takeover targets in its sights.

It owns stakes in five quoted companies, ranging between 9 and 24 per cent. The largest of these is the holding in the Glasgow retailer, A Goldring. And last week, Charterhall said it planned to raise £9 million through a one-for-five rights issue to reduce borrowings and fund further takeovers.

Corah's losses arise from the emergency measures instituted by Mr John Foulkes, the chief executive, who was called in last February. Since then, his axe has bitten deeply

into Corah's unprofitable operations.

After a review undertaken with PA Management Services, the consultant, and Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, Mr Foulkes closed or sold a number of its operations, reducing borrowings by £5 million.

Mr Foulkes says he has established the new shape of the business. It will concentrate on core activities of knitted fabric, underwear and outerwear. But some non-core operations may still be sold.

Each sector of the business has been downsized and the headquarters reduced in size. When the reshaping is complete, the group will employ about 3,300 people,

against 5,400 at the beginning of the year.

Trading suffered during the reconstruction process, especially in the second quarter. Losses amounted to £106,000 at the trading level. Further strong action has been undertaken to cut stocks and borrowings, in the shape of a £2.1 million write-down in the value of stocks. This produced a £2.208 million loss at the pre-tax level. More than £4.8 million in closure and disposal costs taken below the line led to a £7 million loss attributable to shareholders.

Mr Foulkes says shareholders cannot expect a dividend this year, but the group should trade profitably in the second half.

£1bn of bad debt 'is not claimed'

By Our City Staff

Bad debts worth up to £1 billion a year remain unclaimed because of slack credit controls at many British companies which make no recovery attempts, according to a leading company liquidator.

Mr Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, the accountant, who carried out a survey on the issue, yesterday said there was a "couldn't-care-less attitude of simple ignorance" on the part of creditors of companies which have gone into liquidation. They could be putting at risk hundreds of millions of pounds of British business money.

He said that last year 14,000 British companies went into administrative receivership or insolvent liquidation, leaving millions of pounds of unpaid bills — many of which remained unpaid because creditors failed to use the legal procedures available.

The survey showed that as many as 85 per cent of creditors are effectively disinterested in chasing their debts.

When sent proxy forms following the failure of a company "they simply turn their backs or do not understand how to exercise their rights on the debt," the survey claims.

Mr Morris said: "Often they leave the control of their debt in the hands of somebody, maybe the chairman of the insolvent company, who brought the business to its knees in the first place."

Saying that credit control is "dreadfully slack" in many companies, he added: "As many as 70 per cent of creditors fail to return proxy forms at all and have no representation, and 15 per cent, by voting for the chairman, probably make a totally wrong judgement on who should represent them. Together, these proxies are valued in debt terms at around £1 billion a year. It really is astonishing."

Mr Morris, who was appointed liquidator of Laker Airways when it crashed six years ago, said he was still receiving requests for payment of bills from companies which appeared to be unaware that the airline is in liquidation.

Launching a new book, *Creditors' Rights in Insolvency*, Touche Ross said that any creditor owed a material amount should have his interests looked after by professional insolvency specialists.

Too many Jacks ride ConsGold bandwagon

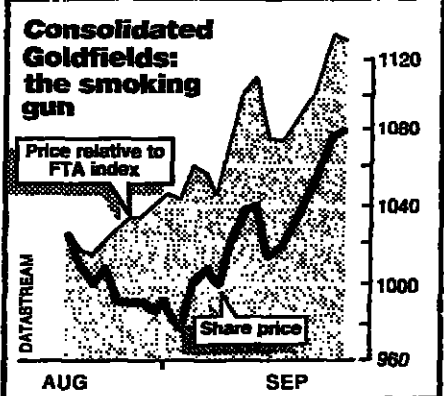
COMMENT David Brewerton

A new generation of the Oppenheimer dynasty is emerging, building its third empire, outside South Africa.

The cornerstone of the new empire is Minoro, the Bermuda-based group, which is 60 per cent owned by the Anglo American Group and its first cousin De Beers. But the major building block — identified (on his first day in the job) by Minoro's chief executive Sir Michael Edwards, a South African — is to be Consolidated Gold Fields, in which Minoro already has 29 per cent as a result of a dawn raid in 1980.

The bid was one of the City's worst kept secrets: in fact, it was hardly secret at all. As the share price chart demonstrates, Consolidated Gold Fields shares have been outperforming the share market, when the gold price should have been sending opposite signals. Brokers have been tipping the shares for take-over and options business has been frantic. The Stock Exchange is already instituting enquiries, but there were so many people aboard that particular bandwagon that it will be hard to show that anyone was an insider. The leak is shameful, and Sir Michael should be asked — and ask — some harsh questions.

The offer itself is not generous, and Rudolf Agnew will defend Consolidated Gold Fields with the ample ammunition at his elbow. South African ownership would damage the company, which is in any case due to be dismembered if Minoro gains control. Mr Agnew can point to inconsistencies in the Minoro



front, but above all should be able to demonstrate an asset value far in excess of the bid.

But that does not mean he will maintain the group's independence. The investors who were robbed of millions by others insider dealing on the leak have allowed all manner of South African and Australian jack-the-lads to move in. There could be as much as another 30 per cent of the Consolidated Gold Fields in hands which, given a sweetener on the price, would be prepared to pass their shares to Minoro: added to Minoro's existing 29 per cent, more than enough to change control.

Swiss and Bermudan interests, as well as the inevitable South African arks, are believed to have built up blocks of Consolidated Gold Fields, and perhaps that will tell the Stock Exchange where to start looking for the insiders.

Sir Peter and the KIO wolf

The Kuwait Investment Office's insistence that it has no intention of using its 23 per cent shareholding in BP to interfere with the management decisions taken in the rooms near the top of Britannic House — assurances which it has offered to put into a legally enforceable covenant — is in itself having an effect on one of the most important decisions facing the BP board: When will chairman Sir Peter Walters' successor be named and who will it be.

Sir Peter Walters and his senior managers have taken the intrusion of the KIO on to the register personally, and are working on the moves to be made once the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation is known. A ruling that the KIO should dispose of a large tranche of its holding, in an orderly way which will keep the shock waves in the investment community to a minimum, can be dealt with. BP appears to have already convinced several large Japanese institutions of the worth of being long-term investors.

However, a decision by Lord Young of Gifford, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to allow Kuwait to

continue holding shares at its present level would be harder for BP to handle. Sir Peter Walters may interpret such a ruling as a resignation issue. On the other hand, he is one of the doughtiest fighters in the oil business, and there are many of his colleagues who feel that he would more likely extend his period of office to finally kill the KIO wolf.

The fact that such issues are having to be discussed and speculation continues that Mr Robert Horton, recently returned from the United States after successfully integrating Standard Oil into the BP fold, could step in as chairman and truthfully claim that as he was abroad at the time he has no emotional involvement in the KIO issue, shows that a shareholder of such a size cannot but interfere in.

Lord Young is expected to make his ruling shortly and he is no doubt aware the British business community as a whole, and Britain's largest company in particular, cannot afford to lose a man of Sir Peter Walters' ability because of such an issue, even if he can quickly be replaced by men of the calibre of Mr Horton or his co-managing director, Mr David Simon.

Alexander Proudfoot advances to £14.3m

Alexander Proudfoot, the management services group headed by Lord Stevens, goes from strength to strength. The group, a heavily revamped version of City & Foreign, the investment trust, reported half-time profits of £14.3 million, up from £0.8 million.

Lord Stevens said the results, which cover the first full reporting period since the Proudfoot management consultancy was acquired, showed a very satisfactory rise in earnings per share from 6.13p to 13.86p.

Shareholders, who received a single dividend of 2.92p last year, are being paid 2p in respect of the first half.

Oliver's offer

Oliver Resources, the Irish mineral group, has made a seven-for-two share offer, valued at £9.4 million, for North West Exploration, which has gypsum mining interests in County Cavan. North West said its initial advice was to take no action on the merger offer. The bid sent North West shares to 58p from 44p.

Dixon post

Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman of Rowntree, which was taken over by Nestlé after a takeover battle earlier this year, has joined the board of Bass the brewer as a non-executive director.

Property sale

Wyndham Group, the property and investment company, is selling several properties on the Parkwood Industrial Estate at Maidstone, Kent, for £1 million to the National Provincial Building Society pension fund trustees.

Finlay buys

Finlay, the Belfast packaging company, is paying £2.7 million for Olympic, a Stockport manufacturer of laminated board, which is expected to make pre-tax profits of not less than £325,000 for the current year.

Laporte soars

Laporte Industries' half-year after-tax profits climbed from £22.4 million last year to £31.6 million. Pre-tax profits rose from £34 million last year to £50.6 million.

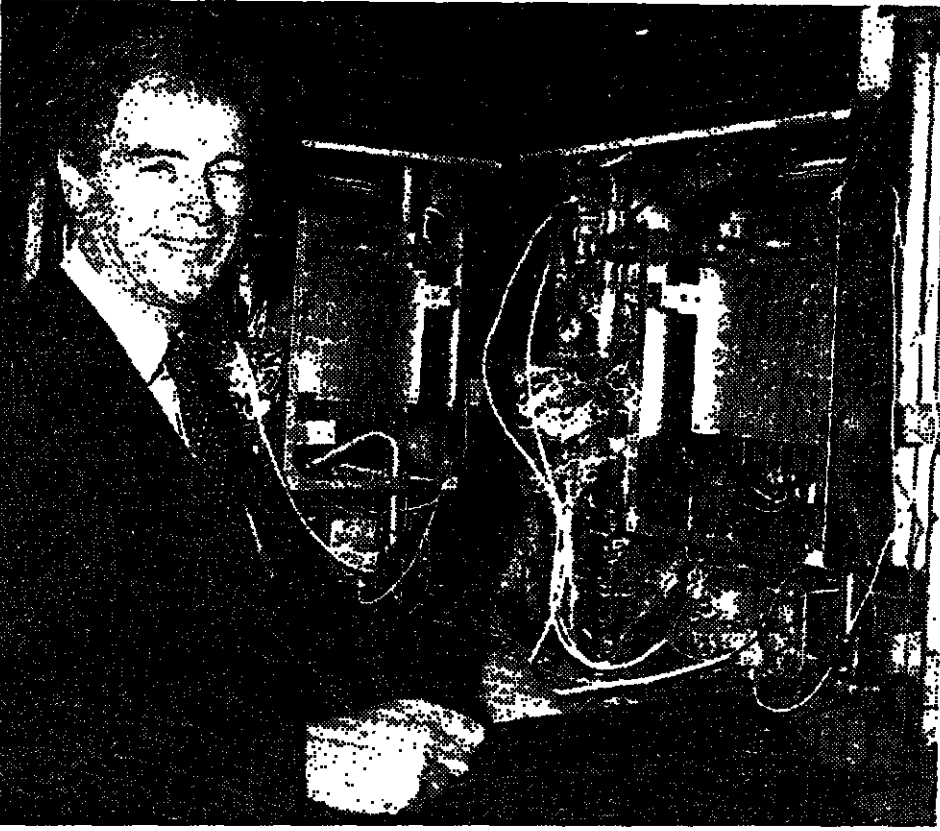
Losing the golden touch

Well... at least he can't be accused of possessing inside information. Jeff Ware, mining analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, must surely be one of the unluckiest men in the City. For, on Tuesday he published a "sell" note on Consolidated Gold Fields, the precious metals group, saying: "We remain bearish on gold and consequently have reduced our estimates." That was, as we all now know, less than 24 hours before Minoro launched its £2.9 billion bid, which yesterday saw shares in ConsGold leap more than £3 apiece to £14. Last night a defensive Mr Ware told me that he thought the bid "defied logic" but admitted that he had had a considerable amount of stick from his City colleagues and is now calling ConsGold shares "a buy up to £15 — because they can defend themselves up to that level. I didn't think that Minoro would bid, because it would be cutting off its nose to spite its face," says Ware, "but when I get things wrong I get them spectacularly wrong."

On their marks

City fans of Marks and Spencer may soon have to travel a shorter distance to stock up on their favourite foods or pin-stripe suits. According to *Retail Week*, the trade journal, the company is thought to be considering its first City site. Although Marks and Spencer

Worcester rises to £2m



Warmer profits from core business: Cecil Duckworth, chairman of Worcester Group

A first interim report from Worcester Group, the central heating boiler maker, since its debut on the main market last October, shows pre-tax profits up from £1.20 million to £2.04 million in the six months to June 30.

The advance was entirely

organic and came from the core business, Worcester Heat Systems.

This provides mains-fed boilers that eliminate the need for hot and cold water storage tanks, where sales grew by 70 per cent during the first half.

Mr Cecil Duckworth, the

Worcester chairman, said that although the company continued to look at potential acquisitions, these were not needed to sustain the growth in earnings per share, which rose from 3.74p to 5.8p. The interim dividend is increased from 0.66p to 0.92p.

Sun Life chief likely to join Burton as Halpern's adviser

By Graham Searjeant

Mr Peter Grant, chairman of Sun Life and former deputy-chairman of the merchant bank Lazard, is likely to join the board of Burton Group as a non-executive adviser to Sir Ralph Halpern.

But he will not replace the controversial Sir Ralph as chairman of the £1 billion retail group. Mr Grant dismissed City speculation, ahead of next week's annual shareholders' meeting, that he would be brought on to the board at the behest of unhappy institutional shareholders as an eventual figurehead replacement for Sir Ralph.

He stressed yesterday that he did not want to be chairman or deputy chairman. He said that if he was asked, he would only agree to join the

board if Sir Ralph remained in his present dual role as chairman and chief executive.

Mr Grant said: "I would be quite the wrong person to head such a large trading group." He said that as a career merchant banker, his natural role was as an adviser. He said Sir Ralph, as a great merchandiser, was the right person to lead Burton.

In a formal response to the speculation, Burton said: "The chairman of Burton Group, Sir Ralph Halpern, is looking for a new non-executive director. Peter Grant is one of a number of candidates who are being considered."

Lord Goodman, Sir Ralph's solicitor and a mutual friend, consulted Mr Grant after the Burton share price suffered

from a combination of the Department of Trade inquiry under Section 447 of the Companies Act, which started a year ago, and tabloid newspaper publicity over Sir Ralph's private life.

If he joined the board, Mr Grant would be likely to advise Burton on the inquiry, which is thought to concern its takeover of Debenhams, and the possibility of removing the shadow over the group. But he did not rule out board advice on personal matters.

He said that he favoured the American-style board, which was led by an executive chairman and a small group of executives, but which had a majority of non-executives. Burton has three non-executives on a board of 10.

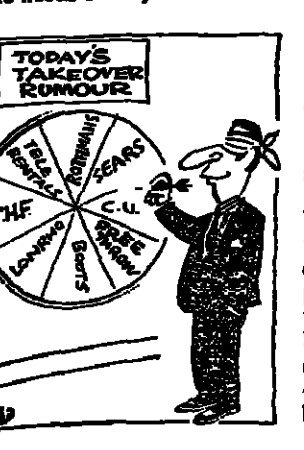
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A lesson in brokerese

Don't always accept everything your stockbroker tells you at face value. One securities house — which, for obvious reasons has asked to remain nameless — has let slip the real meanings behind these oft-used City sayings. Anyone who tells you that the new computerized dealing system is much better than the old market floor is, it is claimed, saying so simply because "We don't have to answer the

telephone." "I'll be surprised if the yield doesn't double in the next two years" means that the share price will probably halve, and "There's been some knowledgeable buying" apparently means "We've all got them PA in-house and we want to get out." And, Big Bang or not, if your broker tells you he's just popping out for a quick lunch, don't believe him. He probably means "See you tomorrow."

officially denies that it has any plans to move into the Square Mile, the magazine claims that its long-standing opposition to market that is effectively closed at weekends is fading, and that the race is now on for the company's executives to find the right site for a new store targeted specifically at the needs of City workers.



IMF détente

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, not to be outdone in the age of glasnost, may yet prove themselves a bridge between East and West when they hold their joint annual meeting in West Berlin next week. For pencilled in on the agenda is the possible welcoming of the Soviet Union into the fold. Hans Klein, West Germany's minister for economic co-operation, has already pronounced himself "extremely happy" with the idea. But such a move would give Nicholas Brady, the United States' new Treasury Secretary, pause for thought. In preliminary discussions today, Brady is expected to tell the IMF that whoever is the next president, US co-operation with the rest of G7 will continue as before — even, presumably, if G7 becomes G8.

Japanese yuppies have developed a yen for the British military look. The latest de rigueur accessory, on the floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, is to wear British military badges and crests on jacket breast pockets. The favourite at the moment is the insignia of the Household Cavalry.

Carol Leonard



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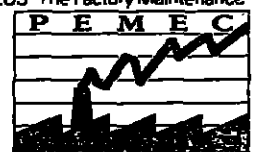
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Show Hours: Tues 27 — Thurs 29: 9.30 — 5.00, Fri 30: 9.30 — 4.00

All entries must be received by 4pm on Friday 30th September 1988. Entry to the draw is free. Full rules available on request. No cash alternative to the prize will be offered. If you cannot attend the show you may enter the draw by sending your business card to: Carnivals Exhibitions Ltd, 59 London Road, Tottenham, TW1 2SL. Have one under 16 admitted. Student Groups by arrangement only.

Strong gains

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 29)

| Line | Company | Price Bd. Est. | Chg Pct | Open Chg Pct | Vol | P/E |
|------|---------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-----|------|
| 37 | 721 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 38 | 722 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 39 | 723 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 40 | 724 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 41 | 725 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 42 | 726 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 43 | 727 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 44 | 728 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 45 | 729 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 46 | 730 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 47 | 731 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 48 | 732 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 49 | 733 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 50 | 734 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 51 | 735 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 52 | 736 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 53 | 737 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 54 | 738 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 55 | 739 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 56 | 740 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 57 | 741 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 58 | 742 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 59 | 743 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 60 | 744 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 61 | 745 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 62 | 746 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 63 | 747 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 64 | 748 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 65 | 749 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 66 | 750 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 67 | 751 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 68 | 752 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 69 | 753 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 70 | 754 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 71 | 755 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 72 | 756 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 73 | 757 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 74 | 758 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 75 | 759 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 76 | 760 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 77 | 761 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 78 | 762 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
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| 80 | 764 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 81 | 765 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 82 | 766 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 83 | 767 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 84 | 768 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 85 | 769 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 86 | 770 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 87 | 771 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 88 | 772 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 89 | 773 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 90 | 774 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 91 | 775 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 92 | 776 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 93 | 777 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 94 | 778 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 95 | 779 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 96 | 780 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 97 | 781 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 98 | 782 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 99 | 783 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |
| 100 | 784 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 18 | 30.9 |

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

September 22, 1988

Mike Jeans, a consultancy expert, offers a solution to the growing requirement for more competent executives

Should pilots run airlines? Should doctors manage hospitals? Should actors administer theatres? Should engineers be responsible for manufacturing industry? Whenever the answer to these types of question is "yes", there are probably even more reasons given for the answer to be "no". Lying behind this debate is a fundamental dilemma. The world is becoming more and more specialist, with these specialities being acquired at a comparatively young age. On the other hand, there is a growing need for more competent managers.

How can these specialist requirements be reconciled with general management skills? Are we seeing an increasing requirement for the "generalist specialist", and, if so, how will this requirement be satisfied? How can we find and develop the entrepreneurial engineer of the future, like Morita or Sony, which can give strategic direction and encourage product innovation.

Much has been written about the state of management training in the UK and the need for improvement. Reports by Constable and Handy, published in 1987, concluded that the UK must do more to develop its managers and must do it more systematically. Since then, though not necessarily as a consequence, we have seen the emergence of such

initiatives as the "chartered manager", new part-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes, various distance learning programmes etc. During the past five years or so we have also witnessed the dramatic growth of management consultancy.

If top management continues to take more interest in this area, and if the quality and relevance of training is improved, then I believe we shall be seeing a new breed of manager emerging by the early 1990s. Most of these managers will have started their lives as technical specialists but, after an increasingly shorter period of time, they are being asked to fill management positions. The problem is how to enable such managers to acquire management at all, but time is no longer on the side of such a route — even if the individuals themselves had sufficient patience to await promotion until adequate experience had been gained.

Not only does this situation prevail in commercial and industrial organizations and the public sector, but it also exists within the management consultancy profession. Clients increasingly demand specialist skills ranging from, for example, telecommunications to remuneration planning. On the other hand, the same clients wish to be assured that such specialists understand the



Generalist specialists, managers of the 1990s

management context of any advice they may give. Again the demand is for the "generalist specialist".

There are three key elements to solving the dilemma. First, organizations themselves must take the issue of development and training more seriously. It cannot just be left to the training department to arrange. It must become a major concern to top management — a competitive weapon linked to organization strategy and individual goals. It must be linked to on-the-job training, coaching, mentoring and career development.

Second, training institutions must do more to improve the quality and relevance of training. There will need to be a shift from "teacher-centred" to "learner-centred" approaches, with recognition that most learning will take place at the workplace. Third, individuals themselves must take ownership, showing more adaptability and flexibility. They need to see management training as an important and

continuous process. Recognition is required that "specialist" training in, say, engineering or accountancy is no longer enough and that generalist management skills must be acquired.

For training institutions, such as providers of MBA courses, this demand has relevance both to the content of the programme and the time in his career at which it is appropriate for an individual to attend. The content clearly must reflect the need for a specialist to obtain an understanding of other specialist functions, coupled with the opportunity to acquire general management skills.

The latter will be difficult to build into the curriculum unless there is a clear understanding of the role of management. In terms of timing, my own belief is that this should be five or six years into an individual's career. Thus, the individual would be likely still to be specializing in a particular area and to return to that area with enhanced management skills. There is a danger that the more

mature participants will be undertaking an MBA programme because they have reached a specialist career crisis and wish to become "resprayed" as a specialist in another field.

In overall terms, however, it would appear that MBA graduates are seeing such programmes as part of their management and career development by adding management skills to their existing technical knowledge. Of the 141 members of Cranfield's 1987-88 MBA/MSc programme, only 28 excluded general management as a career objective and even fewer, 24, excluded consultancy.

This type of management training is occurring at an even younger age with management modules being offered at some universities as part of first degree courses. In many cases, such modules form part of engineering courses. The original objective was probably to give engineering graduates a better

understanding of management processes, thereby enabling them to become better (more rounded) engineers.

In practice, many of these graduates never enter the engineering profession and seek an initial job that can be more closely perceived as leading to a general management career. In this case, forgetting the well exposed debate on the role of engineers in society, it could be argued that we are creating the generalist too early — indeed truly a generalist rather than a generalist specialist.

Within the management consultancy profession, the issue is recognized. Entry to membership of the Institute of Management Consultants is dependent on applicants satisfying the requirements in relation to a body of knowledge and experience defined by the institute. This covers two main areas:

A. Fields of management activity. (i) Areas of specialization (the "specialist"). (ii) Management and

business generally (the "generalist"). B. Management consulting (the consulting process).

By satisfying the requirements of A, it could be said that an individual has achieved a position of being a "generalist specialist". But we are still left with the problem of enabling people to reach this achievement level. There are no easy answers. It is likely that the acquisition of the qualities required of the manager for the 1990s will be sourced through a mixture of specialist training, management training, and experience. The experience needs to be planned by the firms and the individual. But it is unlikely that we shall be able to rely on experience alone in the future.

Training and well structured management and career development programmes will be required in order to accelerate the process whereby the skills are put in place to enable individuals to manage effectively at a younger age and to become generalist specialists. Recognition of the dilemma is the first step towards its resolution. A partnership between organizations, training institutions and individuals is likely to be the next step forward.

Mike Jeans is consultancy partner at Peat Marwick McLintock and vice-president of the Institute of Management Consultants

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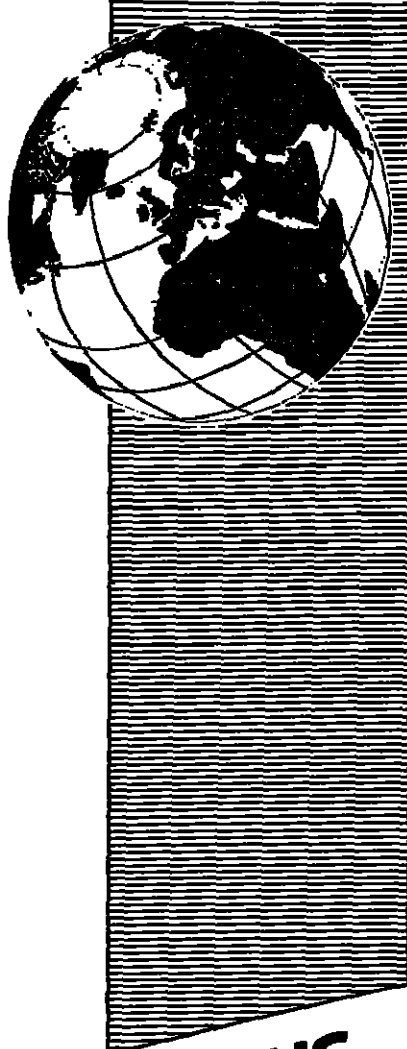
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Base to £30K

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Investment in new product development plus aggressive plans for expansion have created opportunities for outstanding sales professionals in two sectors:-

- VAX product portfolio encompassing relational database, systems generator and artificial intelligence products.
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If you can demonstrate a successful sales career to date within the above markets but now want to fully realise your potential, this is an excellent opportunity to become associated with an established and respected organisation in an exciting phase of development.

For an informal discussion please contact Rob Ferguson on 01-253 3303 during office hours or on 01-262 4649 evenings/weekends.

Arena Computer Personnel

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A member of MBS plc Group of companies

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No Ceiling

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In order to qualify you must have a sound technical background, preferably with some experience gained in a software development environment plus a successful grounding in the sales function. A significant amount of time will be spent in Europe, and product training will take place at the Company's head office in Canada, so a flexible attitude towards travel is essential. You must also demonstrate highly developed interpersonal skills, determination, and the vision necessary to fully capitalise on the outstanding opportunities this market presents.

If you feel you have the right blend of sales and technical skills and would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, call Rob Ferguson on 01-253 3303 during office hours, or on 01-262 4649 evenings/weekends.

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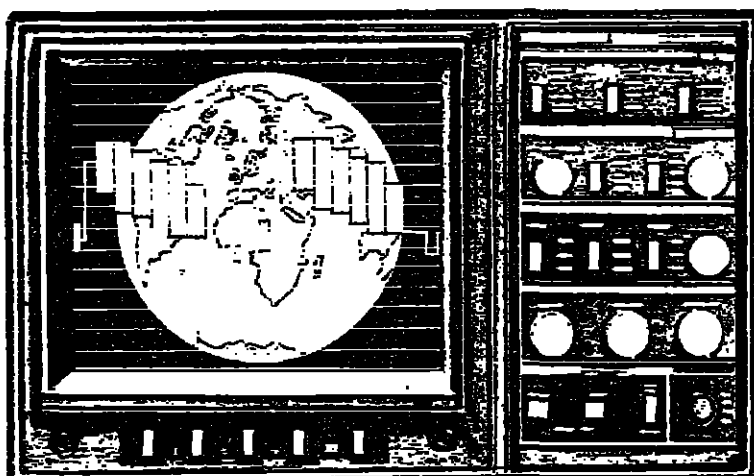
A Managing Director is required for the newly formed Enterprise Division which now comprises a number of existing activities and will have an aggressive growth policy.

The person we are looking for will be 30s - early 40s, with a sound educational background and possibly a second business qualification.

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Age on entry up to 39.

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Post to: Group Captain Peter Canning, (O2) Officer Careers (09/19/09),
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Address

Postcode

Present or intended qualifications

Preferred career



RAF OFFICER

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If you are interested in this position, please send a curriculum vitae, in complete confidence, to Sarah Fennell, Arthur Andersen Management Consultants, (Ref. T22/89), 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

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HORIZONS

Tourism beats terror

Nearly 940,000 visitors to Northern Ireland last year brought in £92 million, and created up to 300 new jobs in tourism. The NI Tourist Board described 1987 as "a bumper year for tourism".

This year, despite increased worries about IRA activities, tourist centres from Belfast, with its annual November Festival, to Lough Erne, with boating and fishing, are still making a profit.

Among the leaders in tourism is Tony Lord, who became regional director for the National Trust in the province a decade ago. Before he arrived, from the Lake District, the trust headquarters at Malone House had been firebombed and records destroyed, along with a valuable collection of historic lace.

He took over in new offices, in a house set in the exquisite gardens of Rowallane, at Saintfield, outside Belfast, where the garden staff is headed by another "newcomer" — Mike Snowden, a Lincolnshire man full of character with a flowing grey beard.

Today, Mr Lord has 74 staff, 170 seasonal workers and 120 places on Action for Community Employment (ACE) schemes.

A total of £3.5 million has just been spent on Castle Coole, County Fermanagh, mostly on restoring the Portland stone exterior. The trust also owns the Giant's Causeway plus 40 miles of coast, gardens, nature reserves, a printing press, two villages, assorted islands, self-catering properties and a clutch of important houses — a portfolio which surprises visitors, especially when they realize the quality.

Despite its problems, the beauty and culture of Northern Ireland still brings in the tourists — aided by 'outsiders' who fell for its charm, says Ann Hills concluding a two-part series

Mr Lord, who has a diploma in estate management from Cirencester Royal Agriculture College, Gloucestershire, and experience with the Church Commissioners, hopes to consolidate his management plans by 1991.

They include Strangford Lough, where the trust is concerned about wildlife in an outstanding, but fragile area, where seals could die from the distemper virus.

"We stopped plans for salmon farming in Strangford Lough recently," he says proudly.

On Lough Erne, the trust has been given the Crom estate by Lord Erne, but he says: "We are not looking for major acquisitions; we are keeping our eyes open for a working linen mill, cottages on the Antrim coast, perhaps a Victorian house in Belfast and a farmhouse in the Mourne Mountains."

"The trust here is more of a pressure group, working closely with conservation and environmental groups, and with government departments."

He believes that links with the Historic Irish Tourist Houses and Gardens Association are central to a growing network between North and South, which could help balance the books. With only 13,000 members and insufficient visitors, the trust in Northern Ireland relies on cash from London to meet the difference between £750,000 income and £1,400,000 expenditure.

Helping to make known the attractions of Northern Ireland is Fiona MacMillan, aged 27, public relations officer for the Belfast Festival (November 9-26) with up to 250 separate events. She publicizes an array of talent which underlines the revival of Belfast as a cultural mecca.

After reading politics and modern history in Edinburgh, Miss MacMillan launched into a career promoting theatrical groups and arts events in Scotland. Then she got an enterprise allowance to set herself up in Belfast as a press and publicity consultant, and worked for the Londonderry-based Field Day Theatre.

Miss MacMillan and her partner, Quintin Oliver, who heads the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, have become familiar voices on local radio in a society "with some of the youthful buzz London experienced in the late 1960s".

Graeme Hall, a "born again Christian" from Yorkshire, tells his four children: "Home is where we are." With his Irish wife, Joan, he has opened an exclusive top-of-the-range hotel in a farmhouse at Annalong, between the Mourne



Bringing in the visitors

Top left: Graeme Hall and his wife, Joan, started a restaurant and four-star hotel at Annalong, beneath the Mourne Mountains

Below left: Tony Lord, left, director of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, with his head gardener, Mike Snowden

Left: Lieut-Com Trevor Clayton, and his wife, Dorothy, run the Lakeland Marina on Lough Erne



Mountains and the sea. He came to Belfast, in his mid-20s, in 1972 to work with teenagers and met Joan in a church where he was preaching.

Ten years ago they bought the Glassdrumman House restaurant complex, which they now run with shops and a garden centre. They were helped financially by the Northern Bank, support that enabled them to buy nearby Glassdrumman Lodge, which has been converted into a four-star hotel. It adjoins a farm with well-

kept stock and visitors can borrow wellies for a tour.

Instead of becoming millionaires, the Halls set up a charitable trust and pay themselves a nominal wage. They believe that, if the time comes, they can move on — "perhaps to Indonesia or Thailand".

Holidaymakers setting sail on Lough Erne might encounter Lieutenant-Commander Trevor Clayton, of Lakeland Marina. He retired from the Navy in 1958 and spent 10 years in Devon, boat

building, before moving to Lough Erne — a 150-mile stretch of unspoilt lakes in Fermanagh. Lieut-Com Clayton and his wife, Dorothy, used some of their pension to set up in business with sailing boats and motor cruiser. They acquired six acres, built their own house overlooking the water and increased the number of motor cruisers to the present 15.

In the 1970s, "when the troubles were at their worst", he decided to woo foreign travel agents — "the start of our Continental market".

Up to 60 per cent of hirers now come from mainland Europe. The Department of Economic Development provides grants towards overseas marketing.

The fact that he was English did not matter to the locals around Lough Erne, he says. "People help in a practical way and we are rather good with tractor engines at haymaking time."

The Claytons make a comfortable living and have amassed substantial capital in property, the boats and the business. Above all, they appreciate the special setting.

"The water is clean and drinkable. We love the velvet blackness at night, when you can't see or hear anything, and the nearness of nature," says Mrs Clayton.

They have some good friends, play bridge and join amateur dramatics in winter, and are involved in community development. "Our roots are here."

Their only regret is that "our people in England are hesitant to come over."

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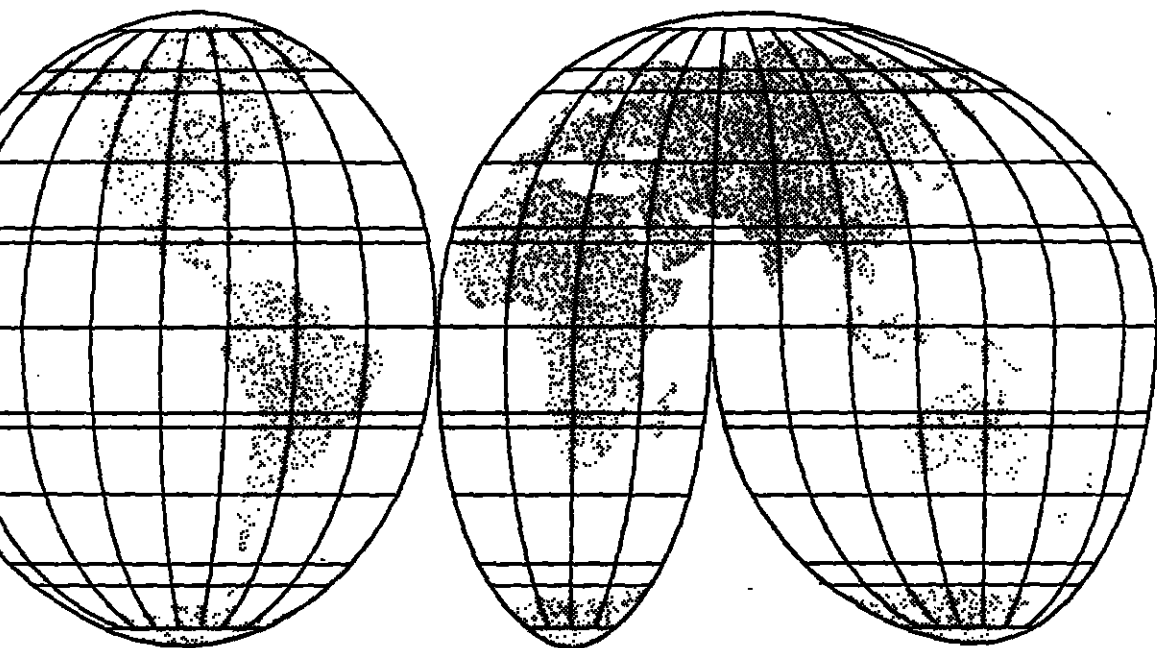
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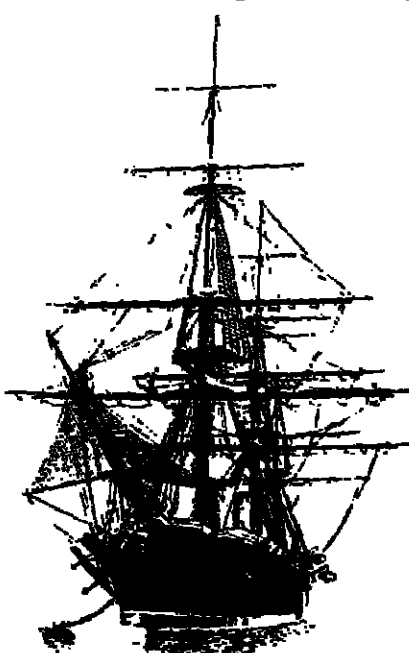
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Most committed skiers will readily concede that no country in the world can match France both for the range of skiing available and superb supporting facilities.

France starts off with many natural advantages, including three mountain ranges, excellent communications, lots of snow and sunshine and a ski-conscious population, but it is really for the keen competitive skier of intermediate ability or even better.

France pioneered, and continues to develop, her vast inter-linked runs and lift networks, connecting neighbouring resorts across the mountains. There are now "four-valley" and even "12-valley" ski-safaris to add to this.

Every resort is investing money to link its lifts and runs to those of a convenient neighbour, and the day when one can ski along the lift and piste system from the hills above Lac Leman (Lake Geneva) to the foothills of the Mediterranean cannot be long delayed.

In skiing you get only what you pay for. In the French Alps, high-quality skiing is not cheap. A six-day *Trois Vallées* lift pass in 1988-89 will cost £95 (€90), a 13-day pass £165 (€165). A week's skiing in the top skier's Mecca, Val d'Isère, home of the Olympic champion, Jean-Claude Killy, will cost £15 (€15).

Lift passes are a good indication of the facilities available, and a

Robin Neillands takes a look at the varied attractions of French slopes

rough guide to other prices. A drink in a disco can cost £8-£10, and lunch for two at the excellent Bistrot de Praz, at Courcheval, £50-£60.

The bulk of the better French ski resorts lie in the Alps of Savoie and are served from the UK through the airport at Geneva.

Transit through which is one of the low points in any ski trip, but efforts are being made to improve facilities. Most Savoie resorts lie within four hours of Geneva by coach, but some, such as Flaine and Avoriaz-Morzine, are much nearer.

Flaine, just two hours from Geneva, is a particularly good resort for families with small children, partly because the transfer reduces the cries of "Are we there yet?" and partly because the children's ski school is excellent. It also offers *ski-évolatif*, the graduated-length method, which is said

to take absolute beginners up to the parallel turn inside a week.

Avoriaz is a new, high-rise ski centre free of traffic, except horse-drawn sleighs, two hours from Geneva, and the popular centre of the famous and extensive Portes du Soleil. The full Portes du Soleil lift pass covers 180 lifts and offers access to 700 kilometres (420 miles) of piste with lots of off-piste and the famous - or infamous - Swiss Wall precipice that falls away from above Avoriaz down into Switzerland and is said to be the blackest "black" run in Europe.

The village has cinemas, a range of restaurants, the usual high-price discos, with most of the accommodation in chalets or self-catering apartments. Valmorel, a ski centre built around an old Savoyard village, has become very popular with first-class skiers, both for its village ambience and excellent skiing.

The places that retain a French feel, despite visitors, are Megève, a popular resort for the glitterati of *la haute Paris*, and the hotels and restaurants of Courcheval.

South of Savoie lies the Dauphiné, a sprawling mountain region that once provided a rather inadequate income for the Dauphin, eldest son of the King of France. Skiers usually get there through the airport of Satolas, near Lyon, which reduces the



Young learners line up on the slopes at the popular French resort of Chamonix. The professional instruction that they receive in the resort could lead to a lifetime's enjoyment of competent skiing in a country where it may soon be possible to ski from the hills above Lake Geneva to the foothills of the Mediterranean.

journey time to the Alps and offers the possibility of a side trip to Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France.

Top resorts in the Dauphiné, a region that is becoming ever more popular with British skiers, are Les Deux Alpes and Alpe d'Huez. Both of these are mountain villages made over into ski resorts and not post-war custom-built centres.

Moving south again, past Briançon into the Hautes-Alpes, a fresh clutch of small but attractive resorts has recently come on stream: Risoul, Montgenevre and Serre-Chevalier. Serre-Chevalier is on three levels - 1,350m, 1,400m and 1,500m - each giving access to the mountains above and offering skiing over 200 kilometres (120 miles) of excellent piste.

Risoul is linked to neighbouring

Vars, while Montgenevre reaches out across the Italian frontier to the runs of Sestriere. All these resorts have good snow records, and being fairly far south, have lots of sun.

France has developed cross-country skiing - *ski de fond* - in all the mountain regions, but it is particularly popular in the Auvergne, notably around Le Puy, on the Aubrac plateau, and in the Jura.

The Jura also offers one of Europe's great cross-country ski trails, La Grande Traversée du Jura (GTJ), a real winter challenge covering 65 kilometres (40 miles) across the Jura mountains, and as much again in the *département* of the Doubs. Information about the GTJ can be obtained from the Comité Départemental du Tourisme Jura, Préfecture du

Jura, 39021 Lons-le-Saunier, France.

The Vercors plateau, high above Grenoble, is another great cross-country skiing area, and as a way to see the most beautiful and more remote parts of France away from the crowded piste and at a time when the summer crowds have gone, a trip on cross-country skis can hardly be bettered. Two companies offering cross-country skiing in France are Inntour, York (065 382 425) and Waymark Holidays, 295 Lillie Road, London SW6 7LL (01-385 5015).

Although there are downhill skiing resorts, such as Le Mont-Dore, in the Auvergne, the second great area for Alpine skiing in France is the Pyrenees. Down there in the sunnier south, ski resorts straddle the mountains from Caunterets in the west, across Andorra to Font-Romeu, high on

the Cerdagne plateau above Perpignan in the east.

These resorts are reached via the modern airports at Toulouse or Perpignan, and offer a very different kind of skiing from that of the Alps, although the facilities are almost as good, and constantly improving. The big difference lies in the atmosphere, which is more friendly, with much less queue-barging. The prices here are at a sub-Alpine level - £33 for a six-day lift pass in Caunterets, which also has excellent cross-country skiing at the nearby Port d'Espagne, £40 for six low-season days in the linked resorts of Barettes-La Mongie.

The accommodation in the Pyrenees tends to be in small hotels or chalets, the restaurants are small and cheery rather than fashionable, and the general air of the resorts is much more relaxed.

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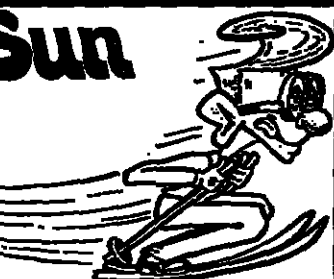
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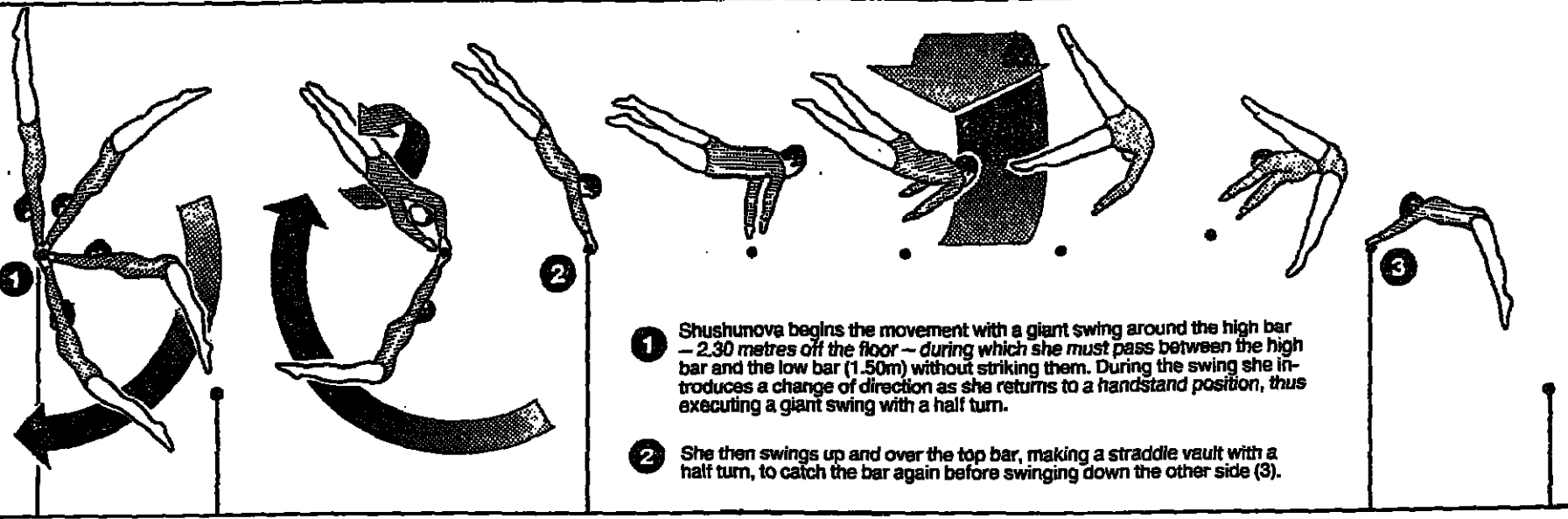
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THE TIMES AT THE OLYMPICS

THE SHUSHUNOVA TWIST: A UNIQUE MOVE ON THE ASYMMETRIC BARS



- 1 Shushunova begins the movement with a giant swing around the high bar — 2.30 metres off the floor — during which she must pass between the high bar and the low bar (1.50m) without striking them. During the swing she introduces a change of direction as she returns to a handstand position, thus executing a giant swing with a half turn.
- 2 She then swings up and over the top bar, making a straddle vault with a half turn, to catch the bar again before swinging down the other side (3).

Yelena Shushunova, the 19-year-old Soviet gymnast, is expected to perform this unique move during her asymmetric bars routine in the all-around individual finals tomorrow (Peter Aykroyd writes). It could be one of the highlights of these Olympics. It is described as a giant swing with half-turn to immediate release and straddle vault with half-turn to recatch. Gymnastically, she

has created a masterpiece of mechanical perfection to which she adds elegance and beauty.

Shushunova, aged 19, is one of the most notable innovators of the decade and, having helped lead the Russians to the team gold, is a strong contender for the individual title. The former joint world champion was the first to perform the 1½ twisting and

double-twisting Yurchenko vaults, the full twisting Korbut flip on the beam and the 1½ Arabian somersault on floor.

She is a double world vault champion and an exceptional floor and asymmetric bars performer. Her weakest piece is the beam, on which her chief rival, Daniela Silivas, of Romania, is renowned.

After losing her world title in Rotterdam

last year to Aurelia Dobro, of Romania, Shushunova lost weight and recovered form to win this year's Moscow News and French International tournaments. An Olympic victory would complete her wins of the world's most important titles — world, Olympic, World Cup and European — a feat achieved just once — by the great Lyudmila Turishcheva in the 1970s. An Olympic

victory would also establish her as the first durable global champion of modern gymnastics.

The daughter of a lorry driver, she comes from Leningrad, where she trains five hours a day, six days a week under the direction of Viktor Gavrichenko. She has been a member of the Soviet national squad since she was 15.

Soviets have greater depth

From John Goodbody



The Soviet Union yesterday dethroned its great gymnastics rival, Romania, to win the women's Olympic team title on an evening of rare drama and immaculate skill.

The struggle between these two countries has dominated this event since Nadia Comaneci won her first European title in 1975.

Yesterday Romania was clearly unsettled by the lack of outstanding form of Aurelia Dobro, who broke her knee, last spring in a training accident. Although she performed nobly to finish sixth overall, she was understandably not quite at the level of 1987, when she was the individual world champion.

Romania also lacked the profound depth of the Soviet Union, who were handicapped by the loss of Olga Strajeva. She tumbled from the beam, fell awkwardly and had to be carried out of the arena.

In the individual positions Elena Shushunova, of the Soviet Union, is in the lead for the combined exercises final tomorrow.

Several East Germans wobbled or fell off the beam, but they picked themselves up to take the bronze medal, ahead of the United States.

The evening was conducted, so many had been in the Games over the last 12 years by Bela Karolyi, the former Romanian coach, the man who discovered Comaneci, defected to the United States, inspired Mary Lou Retton to the 1984 Olympic title, and was the centre of an intense controversy in American gymnastics and last night was leading the US team.

He is as flamboyant as Malcolm Allison and as abrasive as Brian Clough. He constantly cautions about the judging and yesterday was everywhere, urging, cajoling, advising and hugging the girls.

A former hammer thrower with little personal proficiency in the sport, he transformed gymnastics. As he says, "I knew nothing of the sacred gymnastics traditions — all those cute, delicate girls, just sort of kicking up their heels and going la, la, la. I imagine it. No one had ever thought of turning them into little ballerinas."

The Americans may have been only fourth but Karolyi still knows how to detonate gymnasts.

Karen Kennedy, of Britain, has withdrawn from the Olympic gymnastics competition after injuring an ankle in training.

Yachting brothers under fire

Two Israeli yachtsmen, who yesterday ignored Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, could be expelled from the team.

The brothers, Dan-Noam and Ram-Jacob Toren, had been expected to join four other Israelis in forfeiting scheduled events to observe the Day of Atonement, on which any activity, other than prayer, was forbidden from dusk on Tuesday to sunset on Wednesday.

However, they were listed among starters in the 470 class race at the Pusan yachting centre and provisional results credited them with finishing ninth.

Panetta's pick

Francesco Panetta has ended his dilemma over which track gold medal to go for. The Italian, after debating for a year, has opted for the 3,000 metres steeplechase in preference to the 10,000 metres, which comes earlier in the programme.

Drugs swoop

At least five members of Swedish Olympic team are being accused of having used anabolic steroids, said police who are conducting the biggest drug sweep in the country's sporting history.

Valdo ban

The International Football Federation (FIFA) has imposed an indefinite suspension on Valdo, Benfica's Brazilian international forward, who failed to join his country's squad in Seoul.

More choice

The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has visited the athletes' village following complaints about the food. A spokesman said Samaranch had described the food as very good but said a more varied menu would be a help.

Star treatment

The Turkish Prime Minister, Turgut Ozal, is sending his private jet to fly home Naim Süleymanoglu, the tiny weightlifter who broke six world records and won the country's first gold medal for 20 years.

Nesty's gold medal lifts Surinam from the back of beyond

From Steven Downes

To hear Surinam's national anthem for the first time was indeed unexpected. Not only had the former colony of Dutch Guiana, in South America, never won an Olympic medal until Anthony Nesty took the 100 metres butterfly title, ahead of Matt Biondi, of the United States, and Britain's hope, Andy Jameson, it had never had anyone in a swimming final at the Games.

In swimming terms, Surinam is very much the back of beyond, and the way Nesty stole the race from the American was also from the back of Biondi. Biondi blitzed the first length, in 24.53sec, leaving

Nesty fifth at the turn. Until the final metre, Nesty had only passed three swimmers. Biondi, however, made the mistake of a novice. "I'm very angry," he said after gliding to the wall, to lose by one-hundredth of a second to Nesty's Olympic record of 53.00. Jameson set his second Commonwealth record in two days, 53.30sec.

Nesty is thought to be the first black man to win an Olympic swimming medal. There have been other black international swimmers — Kevin Burns, from Sheffield, set the British 100 metres freestyle record in 1976 — but few have been successful.

The reason for their scarcity has principally been economic and social. Swimming is not

the cheapest of sports in which to participate and it is also one of the least well rewarded.

When it is considered that there is only one six-lane, 50-metre pool and 10 25-metre pools in Surinam, for a population of 380,000, it is hardly surprising that the country has never been a power in swimming.

Nesty was born 20 years ago in Trinidad, one of five children. The family moved to the mainland of South America when he was nine months old.

He went to high school in Jacksonville, Florida, and last year won the Pan-American Games title. He is in the first year at Florida University, where he is coached by Randy Reese, one of the United States' staff coaches.

Jameson puts holiday aside

From John Goodbody

The pressures of competitive swimming have resulted in Andy Jameson not having enjoyed a holiday for 14 years. After his bronze medal and Commonwealth record in the 100 metres butterfly, Jameson is preparing to return to his home, in Booter's, to decide where to have his long-awaited vacation.

It is typical of the discipline necessary for Olympic sport that Jameson, aged 23, is concentrating on his four other races before thinking of relaxation.

The summer spent at competitions or in training camps are not to be wasted, and he would like another medal at these Games. This is not impossible in the 4 x 100 metres medley relay, where Adrian Moorhouse, the 100 metres breaststroke champion, and Jameson should put Britain in the first three at the start of the freestyle leg.

Jameson said: "It will be very difficult to get a medal. To do so everyone will have to swim brilliantly. It would be a team effort. Realistically, we could reach the final and, if we got there, realistically we have got to go for it."

He looked back with satisfaction at the final. Immediate disappointment at third place changed to pleasure because he had done his best time. "No one can do more."

Jameson thought that if he repeated the time he had done in the fastest qualifier for the final that should be sufficient for victory. It was not. Both Anthony Nesty, of Surinam, and Matt Biondi, of the United States, were ahead of him.

Jameson said the final seemed a lot harder than the heat the previous day, when he was worried that the swim had been "too easy". Part of the tiredness may

have been caused by the nervous tension he felt. After the heat he was unable to eat more than four strands of pasta because his stomach was so knotted up.

Moorhouse, with whom he is sharing a flat, wrote him a letter reminding him that the last 25 metres were "British water" because of his own remarkable finish to take the title. But Jameson's sluggish start gave him too much to recover.

Jameson has to decide whether to continue competing, although he is fairly certain that he will not be swimming at the 1992 Olympics.

Although endorsements and appearance money will be available to leading swimmers, Jameson is keen to start a career now that he has graduated from the University of Arizona. Given his determination and eloquence, many doors should open for him.



Record reach: Nesty after his last-gasp victory over Biondi

A stand-in extends boundaries

Soul (AP) — Bulgaria's Angel Guenchev, a deputy for a colleague who was injured, set three world records in the 67.5kg competition, with a total of 362.5kg in two lifts, and did a backflip on the platform to celebrate.

Joachim Kunz, of East Germany, took silver with a combined total of 340kg and Israel's Milositsion, of the Soviet Union, finished in third place.

Guenchev's 160kg lift in the snatch surpassed a mark set earlier this year by Milositsion. He also broke two records held by another Bulgarian, Mihail Petrov, in the clean-and-jerk and combined total. Petrov was unable to compete because of a back injury and Guenchev lost about 15lb so that he could take his place.

Hickey protests over long wait

The British coach, Kevin Hickey, protested to the organizers of the boxing competition about the long wait Mark Epton had to suffer before meeting Ivailo Hristov, of Bulgaria, the world No. 1 light-flyweight.

Hickey had no complaints about the result. Epton, who became the second of the eight men British team to lose, was outclassed by the former world amateur champion. The coach was annoyed that earlier in the day Epton, like John Lyon before him, was told to take his gloves off and come back later.

The 22-year-old Mexborough boxer was all set to take on Hristov in the morning. But then it was announced that his name was going into a re-draw because of the disqualification of an Israeli, Yehuda Ben-Haim, who refused to box on Yom Kippur.

Epton was not the lucky one to gain a bye, but his contest with the Bulgarian was re-scheduled for the evening. Hickey said: "We've put in an official protest — it was nonsense that we weren't told earlier about the change. What happened today was just absurd."

Joe Lawlor, the Irish flyweight, also found himself out of his depth against Timofei Skriabin, of the Soviet Union, who knew too much for him.

Wayne McCullough, the 18-year-old Belfast, came through his opening bout at light-flyweight against Fred Mureweta, a 17-year-old Ugandan. He faces the brilliant Commonwealth Games champion, Scott Olson, of Canada, next.

BOXING

Gosbee is foiled by unknown

Billy Gosbee, seeded tenth after the qualifying competition, was a casualty as Britain tumbled out of the foils.

Gosbee lost 10-7 to the world champion, Matthias Grey, of West Germany, in the final elimination series, but was beaten 10-6 by a little-known Canadian, Luc Rochelleau, in the repechage.

Pierre Harper reached the last 24 before being eliminated, while Donnie McKenzie, lost his elimination contests.

In the women's foil, Linda Martin went out at the second preliminary round. Liz Thurley and Fiona McIntosh made the final preliminary pools before being eliminated.

standing at cross country, could be a medalist at 5000. "But he has to run sensibly, so as to leave himself with something of a kick at the finish, but not to leave too much too late," Keino says. Yobes Ondieki has the third fastest time of the year.

Keino believes that Moses Tanyi could be a threat to Eamonn Martin, Arturo Barrios and the rest in the 10,000: an as-yet undisciplined talent. In the 3,000 steeplechase Kenya have the three fastest of the year in Koeh, Sang and Kariki, while Douglas Wakihara will aim to add to his world championship title in the marathon.

Keino's involvement with the team is slight these days. He spends most of his time running his farm, where he gives home to 20 or more orphans, putting 10 per cent of the farm's income into looking after homeless children. "We share whatever we have," he says. "In this world we don't own anything, we merely have the lease of it." It is the same sort of principle that he selflessly gave in his running.

When he finally won the 1,500 metres gold and 5,000 metres silver in Mexico in 1968, he was already 28, and at 32 — the same age as Sebastian Coe now is —

1960, and gladly carried his bags at the East African championship in Dar-es-Salaam, where Keino won the mile and three miles.

That was the only international experience he had before the Commonwealth Games in Perth, 1967, when he was 22. In the mile and three miles, and in the 1,500 metres and 5,000 metres, in the Olympic Games in Tokyo two years later, he finished fourth all four times. "It was mostly due to lack of racing exposure," Keino reflects.

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ATHLETICS: KEINO ASSESSES THE CHANCES OF THE GREAT NATURAL RUNNERS FROM HIS COUNTRY

Tanui the threat to Martin in 10,000 metres

The British, with reason, fancy themselves. Morocco has a fellow who has held the world record for the mile and three miles. Yet, arguably, the nation with the world's greatest natural runners is Kenya. In the athletics events beginning tomorrow, Kenya will be serious contenders in every race from 800 metres to the marathon and might reasonably expect to win four medals.

Should they do so it will, in the opinion of the non-pareil Kip Keino, be mostly on account of natural ability rather than application. In the 20 years Keino dominated the track, there has been little development in individual coaching in Kenya. Indeed, Keino thinks that the position may have receded, due to the current attitude of the athletes themselves, and also because of Kenya's absence from the Olympic Games of 1976 and 1980 and the Commonwealth Games of 1986. Evidence points to Kenya

being, for their talent, under-achievers.

"The quality that is missing at the moment is absolute dedication, the willingness to make personal sacrifices," Keino says. "But that can be seen almost all over the world. There are too many diversions, with prize money incentives, shoe endorsements and temptations to run here and there, so that athletes are no longer running exclusively for the pride of achievement with the objective of improving their potential."

"To win medals, you have to have the intent. Kenyan performances are still 80 per cent for natural ability and only 20 per cent from coaching and experience."

In Keino's day you ran for the honour of someone shaking your hand at the finish. "He gave every bit of himself for his country," Samuel Kaman, president of the Kenyan Olympic Committee, says. Kaman was in police college with Keino in

1960, and gladly carried his bags at the East African championship in Dar-es-Salaam, where Keino won the mile and three miles.

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Castle and Gomer turn pressure into progress

From Richard Evans

Andrew Castle and Sara Gomer distinguished themselves yesterday. Both stared defeat in the face and held their own in the first set tie-break and the second set slipped from his grasp.

Although unknown on the professional tour yet, N'Goran has been training at John

Newcombe's camp in Texas and has had some excellent Davis Cup results in the African Zone this year. Physically and temperamentally, he looks a fine prospect. It was only when Castle told himself to relax at the start of the third set that he was able to do himself justice.

Given his reputation for histrionics, Castle kept a firm hold on his temper and played a very mature, not to say skilful, fifth set. He clinched the all-important break of serve in the eleventh game with smooth backhand passes. He will need to play even better against Anders Jarryd, of Sweden.

Gomer was 6-4, 5-3 down with Bolinda Cordwell, of New Zealand, serving for the match. She, too, threw self-doubts aside and began playing in a more controlled and positive fashion. Breaking serve to love, Gomer eradicated the slapdash errors that had plagued her game and took charge in the final set.

Castle, who needed 4½ hours to beat Clement N'Goran, of the Ivory Coast, 6-7, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6, 7-5, was far too hyped-up to play his best tennis at the start.

When he discovered that his opponent possessed a magnificent serve and an adequate volley, three set points in the first set tie-break and the second set slipped from his grasp.

Although unknown on the professional tour yet, N'Goran has been training at John

Britain work of McLeo

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BOXING

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Britain make heavy work of exploiting McLeod's first goal



Moira McLeod gained the distinction of scoring Britain's first goal in the women's hockey when her shot from a short corner at the end of the first half earned victory over Argentina yesterday.

The occasion was exceptional for both sides, neither having played in 1980, when the women's game was admitted to the Olympics, nor in 1984. Neither side made the match memorable.

Britain, who won 1-0, failed to translate their territorial superiority into goals. Argentina were unspeakably defence played well. For Britain, Brown did a lot of strong running and Dixon played soundly in defence.

Dennis Hay, the British coach, said: "Some of our players were very tense. We needed a second goal and did not get it. But we have got the balance right and hope to do better next time."

"Much as I do not like criticizing umpires, I thought

From Sydney Friskin

we should have had a penalty stroke in the second half when Caroline Jordan was obstructed near goal."

A second goal, and perhaps more, was there for the taking from eight short corners, five in the first half, only one of which produced a goal. Argentina's goalkeeper, Mulhalla, made some good saves but Britain's corner drill could have been more varied.

Britain had 10 shots at goal to the two by Argentina, who rarely launched an attack, their defence having been overworked. Their most effective defender, sometimes indelicate with her tackling, was Colombo, who conceded most of the short corners.

It was not until the 26th minute that Cook, in goal, was put to the test when she saved a strong angular shot by Palma at the expense of a long corner. Argentina then had their backs to the wall for the remainder of the half.

Two minutes before half-time, Britain's keeper received a direct hit from their fifth short corner.

Midway through the second half, Britain made two substitutions. Brown and Parker giving way to Fraser and Jordan.

Britain's defence was in trouble at the end, conceding two short corners, the second of which Argentina could not complete because time ran out. It would have been a travesty if they had scored.

GOAL KEEPER: L. Mulhalla; C. Colombo, A. Tuck, M. Lopez, P. Richey, G. L. Taylor, M. Huxley, V. Warbo, S. Sanchez, M. Brindley, A. Palma (sub: V. Bengochea), M. Brindley, C. Asselmann (Belgium), M. Brindley (Canada).

● Britain play their next match tomorrow, against the defending champions, The Netherlands, who defeated the United States, 3-1.

Most of the day's thrills were provided by their group, where South Korea turned the pressure on West Germany to win 4-1. Australia drew 1-1 with Canada, Brownman cancelling out the lead which Forsyth had given Canada.

ROWING

British hopes are revived

Martin Cross, Britain's coxed four gold medal favourite, said he was "in the mood to win" after a disappointing performance in the repechage.

Cross, aged 30, a teacher from Hampton, Middlesex, and the other members of this year's coxed four had a disaster in Monday's heats when they fin-

ished last. But yesterday, Cross, together with John Garrett, John Maxey, Adam Cliff and the cox, Vaughan Thomas, were more impressive as they won their repechage race to progress to today's semi-finals.

The men's eight, who were also disappointing in their heat, made no mistake the second time round, winning their repechage heat in 5min 35.1sec and now line up in Sunday's final.

where, on yesterday's time, they have a reasonable chance of gaining a medal.

Britain's women's coxed four rowed superbly in their repechage to reach the final on Saturday. But Alison Bonner and Kim Thomas, in the coxless pairs, and Sally Andrea and Alison Gill, in the double sculls, finishing third and fourth respectively in their repechages.

Tough task ahead: Colin Sturgess, an unemployed 19-year-old from Leicester, lived up to his billing as Britain's best hope for a medal among the cyclists by winning two 4,000 metres pursuit races in the Olympic Velodrome yesterday. He had 10 seconds in hand over David Brinton, of the United States, before beating New Zea-

land's Gary Anderson by just over three seconds in the quarter-final. Now, as the slowest semi-finalist, Sturgess has to face the Soviet world champion, Gintautas Umaras, who finished fastest of the qualifiers, clocking 4min 32.83 sec - some six seconds faster than the time recorded by Sturgess against Anderson.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM SEOUL

BASKETBALL

Men
GROUP A: Yugoslavia 104, South Korea 52; Soviet Union 117, Puerto Rico 81; Australia 106, Canada 77; Spain 106, China 74.

BOXING

Light-flyweight
SECOND ROUND: H. Martinez (S. Salvador) beat Y. Ben-Haim (Israel) by a majority decision (11-7).

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Light-flyweight
SECOND ROUND: H. Martinez (S. Salvador) beat Y. Ben-Haim (Israel) by a majority decision (11-7).

Handball

Women
FIRST QUALIFICATION: 1. E. Salomons (USSR), 11:57; 2. J. Gauthier (FR), 11:57; 3. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 4. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 5. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 6. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 7. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 8. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 9. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 10. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 11. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 12. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 13. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 14. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 15. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 16. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 17. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 18. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 19. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 20. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 21. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 22. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 23. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 24. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 25. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 26. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 27. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 28. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 29. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 30. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 31. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 32. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 33. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 34. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 35. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 36. S. Smith (USA), 11:57; 37. S. 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